Venus Versus Virus

1

Seven Seas

WELCOME TO VENUS VANGARD... WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU.

Sumire Takahana was a seemingly normal school girl cursed with the ability to see malevolent ghosts known as "Viruses." But her life comes to a dramatic crossroads after a run-in with a *Gothic Lolita*-clad monster killer named Lucia Nahashia. Not content to stay on the sidelines while these Viruses prey on the weak, Sumire decides to join forces with the mysterious eyepatch-wearing Lucia to hunt down the Viruses before they can hurt anyone else.

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MANGA

Seven Seas

Venus versus Virus

Illustrated by Atsushi Suzumi

Venus Versus Virus

ヴィーナス ヴァーサス ヴァイアラス

VOLUME 1

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HMPH. JUST ANOTHER SMALL FRY...
AKSH!
FWUMP!!
I DON'T HAVE THE TIME OR PATIENCE...
BLAM
TO DEAL WITH YOU.

Piece 01: VERTIGO. MEETINGS.

Jewelry
and
clothes

Venus Vangard

Monster
hunters

SHOOT!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S THIS LATE ALREADY...

AW, MAN!
WHY'D I HAVE TO BE THE ONLY ONE WITH DETENTION?
I HATE THIS...
ひたっ
ひたっ
WHEN IT GETS THIS LATE...
I START SEEING... THINGS...
HAAH?!
IT'S STARTED, ALREADY...?!
SHUDDER
ぶるわわ
EEP...
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
PEEK
?

A BROOCH...?
WHOA, WHAT KIND OF STONE IS THAT? I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER SEEN ONE THAT COLOR.
SOMEBODY MUST'VE DROPPED--
REACH
PICK
--OW!!
MOH
?!
BTHUMP

KI
--NPH!!
SQUEE
STAGGER
THMP
HUH...?
AH...
UGH... WHERE'D THIS HEADACHE COME FROM...?
HFF

THE BACK OF MY EYES HURT...
OW...
ZU-!
THROB
ゆら…
WAVER
KYAAAAA-
AA-
A-
銀女学院

BLEEEH
OH MY GOD!
SUMIRE-CHAN, WHAT HAPPENED?! YOU LOOK HORRIBLE!!
OH... GOOD MORNING, NENE-CHAN.
I'M FINE. JUST A LITTLE SHORT ON SLEEP.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. THE JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS HAVE THAT BIG TEST COMING UP.
STUDYING IS A GOOD THING, BUT DON'T KILL YOURSELF DOING IT, OKAY?
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
THANKS, NEN--
SORRY, NENE-CHAN, BUT THAT'S A LIE.
EEP--!!
TWITCH
SUMIRE-CHAN...?!

IT WASN'T STUDYING THAT KEPT ME UP ALL NIGHT.
ARE YOU OKAY?
MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO TO THE INFIRMARY AND LIE DOWN FOR A BIT.
SLOP
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?
HEY, NENE-CHAN?
THERE'S SOMEONE BEHIND THAT TREE...
HA HA HA! GIVE IT UP, SUMIRE-CHAN! I KNOW YOU'RE LYING.
YOU WON'T TRICK ME THAT EASILY ANYMORE!
UM, SUMIRE-CHAN, DID YOU HEAR...?
EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE, I'VE BEEN ABLE TO SEE THINGS OTHER PEOPLE CAN'T.
BUT...
MY SIXTH SENSE IS PRETTY STRONG, SO I'VE SEEN TONS OF GHOSTS AND STUFF.

I'VE NEVER SEEN THAT BEFORE!
SLORP
SUMIRE-CHAN! THAT'S THE WRONG DIRECTION!
HUH?!
DASH
S-SORRY! GOTTA GO!
WHAT THE HELL WAS IT?!
LOTS OF THINGS I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.
THEY KEEP GETTING CLEARER AND CLEARER BY THE DAY...
HFF
HFF
I'M STARTING TO SEE OTHER THINGS TOO...
OH YEAH...!! ALL THIS STARTED THE OTHER DAY...
RUFFLE
SPLAT
GLARE
WHY?!
CRAP! IT'S FOLLOWING ME...

JUST STOP CHASING ME!!
SWISH
IF YOU WANT IT SO BAD, THEN HERE! TAKE IT!!
WHEN I FOUND THIS BROOCH!!
FWOOSH
BLINK
GLARE
IT DIDN'T WORK?!
!!

OH MY GOD...!
SLOOORP
LOOM!!!
SMACK
I'M GOING TO--!
BLAM

SO YOU WERE THE ONE WHO FOUND THIS FOR ME.
!
SPLAT
HUH...?

THANKS. I'LL KNOCK DOWN THE PRICE OF THIS RESCUE IN EXCHANGE FOR IT.
BRING YOUR PAYMENT TO THE STORE, 'KAY?
FWP
UH...?!
A GIRL...?!

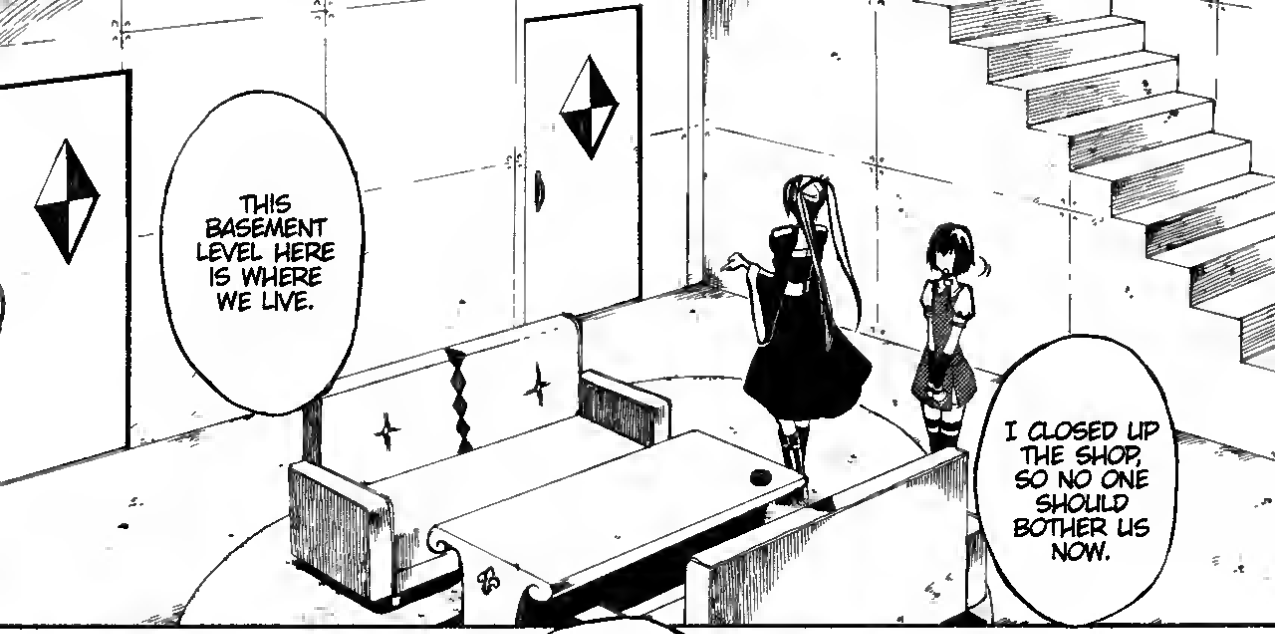
DON'T TRY TO SKIP OUT EITHER. PAY ME, OR I'LL PUT A CURSE ON YOU. GOT IT?
GLEAM
HUH?!
CURSE ME?
W-WAIT...!!
FWISH
...?
A FLYER...?
JEWELRY & CLOTHES
Venus Vangard

K-KLAK
PLUNK
K-KLAK
K-KLAK
THIS...
IS THE PLACE, RIGHT...?
DOOOOOOM
VenuS Va
EN
WOW, WHAT AN IMPOSING DOOR...
UNDER THE RAILROAD BRIDGE, BY THE RIVERBANK...
ALONG THE WEST SIDE OF CENTRAL PARK.
WELCOME.
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN GO IN--
FIDGIT
FIDGIT
FIDGIT
KCHAK

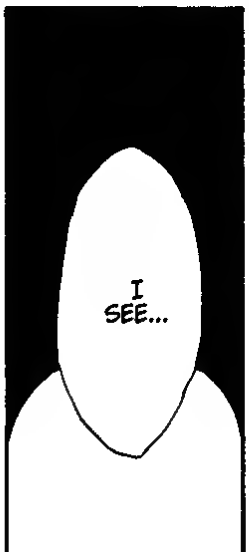
AH...
UH...
SMILE
WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU, MISS.
WOW.
A EUROPEAN-STYLE CLOTHING SHOP. ALL THESE DRESSES AND ACCESSORIES LOOK LIKE THEY COST A FORTUNE!
GLANCE
GLANCE
DID YOU LIKE THAT ONE-PIECE DRESS YOU LOOKED AT LAST TIME?
IT LOOKED ABSOLUTELY DARLING ON YOU.

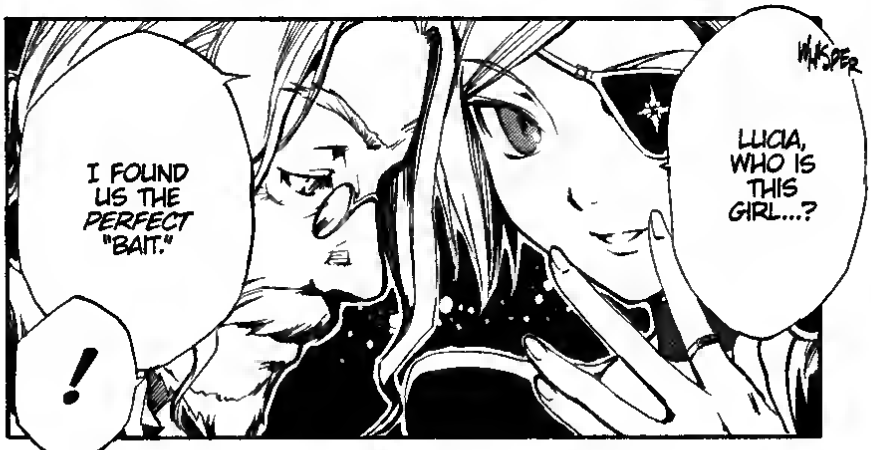
TNK
I...UM... I DIDN'T COME HERE TO SHOP FOR CLOTHING.
YOU KNOW, THE, UH, WEIRD THINGS THAT HAPPENED THE OTHER DAY.
I JUST WANTED TO KNOW IF YOU COULD TELL ME ABOUT...
NEW ACCESSORIES HAVE COME IN SINCE THEN. IF YOU WOULD LIKE, I WOULD GLADLY SHOW--
WE'RE TERRIBLY GRATEFUL YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY JUST FOR ONE ITEM.
HUH?
UM... EXCUSE ME?
AH!
YOU CAME HERE TO PAY FOR THE DRESS YOU WERE SO INTERESTED IN DURING YOUR LAST VISIT, CORRECT?
I'M AFRAID I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, MISS.
HEE HEE
I'M NOT MISTAKEN! I'M NOT MAKING THIS UP!
GRRR
YOU SAVED ME FROM THAT SLIME-MONSTER-THING AND--
WHAT AN INCREDIBLE IMAGINATION YOU HAVE, MISS. BUT I'M SURE YOU MUST BE MISTAKEN.
HERE. WHY DON'T YOU SIT DOWN AND HAVE A NICE CUP OF TEA?
SMILE
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT A DRESS!
??
I CAME BECAUSE YOU SAVED MY LIFE AND THEN JUST TOOK OFF AFTER TOSSING ME THIS FLYER!

SO YOU DID SEE IT, THEN.
SWP
HM. LOOKS LIKE YOUR MEMORIES WEREN'T SWAPPED OUT LIKE THEY SHOULD'VE BEEN, EITHER.
BTWMP
SHE SMELLS LIKE ROSES...
INTERESTING.
BUT HER HANDS ARE LIKE ICE...
BTWMP
I'M LUCIA.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?


THIS BASEMENT LEVEL HERE IS WHERE WE LIVE.
I CLOSED UP THE SHOP, SO NO ONE SHOULD BOTHER US NOW.

A GUEST...?
KCHK
"WE"?
NAHASHI, WE HAVE A GUEST.


I SEE...


I FOUND US THE *PERFECT* "BAIT."
!
WHISPER
LUCIA, WHO IS THIS GIRL...?

SINCE YOU PRICKED YOUR FINGER ON LUCIA'S BROOCH...
YOU HAVE DEVELOPED "VISION."
YOU CAN NOW SEE "VIRUSES" THAT ARE USUALLY *INVISIBLE* TO NORMAL HUMAN BEINGS.
"VISION"? "VIRUSES"?
THAT "SLIME-MONSTER-THING," AS YOU CALLED IT, WAS A BOTTOM LEVEL VIRUS. AND TO HUMANS, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT IT IS, A VIRUS.
THEY USUALLY START OUT AS ***NORMAL*** HUMANS, UNTIL SOMETHING HAPPENS TO TURN THEM INTO A VIRUS.
THAT *THING* USED TO BE... A ***PERSON?!***
THE KEY PHRASE IS "USED TO BE." ONCE THEY'RE A VIRUS, THEY'RE JUST ANOTHER MONSTER.
STRANGELY, VIRUSES DON'T GO AFTER JUST ANY RANDOM HUMAN. THEY ALWAYS SINGLE OUT A SPECIAL TYPE.
THEY ROAM AROUND, TRYING TO EAT HUMAN SOULS.
ANY POOR SAP THEY DO MANAGE TO EAT BECOMES ***ANOTHER*** VIRUS.
WE DON'T YET KNOW WHAT THEIR PARTICULAR TASTES ARE, BUT WE DO KNOW THAT THEIR TARGETS ARE AT LEAST GOING TO HAVE "VISION."

MY JOB IS TO FIND VIRUSES AND KILL THEM.
THE CLOTHING STORE IS JUST A FRONT.
I MAKE MOST OF MY MONEY OFF OF CLIENTS LIKE YOU, PEOPLE WITH "VISION"...
WHO COME HERE LOOKING FOR HELP IN DEALING WITH VIRUSES.
SPEAKING OF WHICH...
GLANCE
YOU STILL OWE ME FOR YOUR RESCUE THE OTHER DAY. HERE.
INVOICE
¥ 666.000
FWAP
WHAT THE HECK...?! SIX HUNDRED AND SIXTY-SIX THOUSAND YEN?!
STRAIGHT FACE
WELL, I DID SAVE YOUR LIFE, YOU KNOW.
AND I ALREADY LOWERED THE PRICE BECAUSE YOU FOUND MY BROOCH.
BUT YOU DO HAVE A POINT, I GUESS. A STUDENT LIKE YOU WOULD HAVE A HARD TIME COMING UP WITH SIX HUNDRED GRAND.
SHIVER
HERE'S MY OFFER...

WHAT...?
HELP YOU WITH YOUR WORK?
ME?!
DON'T WORRY. IT'S REAL EASY.
NAHASHI, WOULD YOU BRING THE ITEM, PLEASE?
TWIRL
WHENEVER YOU'RE AT SCHOOL OR IN THE DORM, PUT THAT ON AND DON'T TAKE IT OFF FOR ANYTHING, 'KAY?
THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE TO DO.

ARE YOU CERTAIN THIS WILL BE ALL RIGHT, LUCIA...?
THE STONE IN THAT PENDANT--
SHE'LL BE FINE, NAHASHI. EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT PERFECTLY.
"SUMIRE," HUH...? INTERESTING.
I'VE GOT A... WEIRD... FEELING. GOOD OR BAD, I CAN'T TELL. YET.
WHO KNOWS? I MAY EVEN GET TO TAKE THIS OFF.

WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON...?
IT'S LIKE I'M STUCK IN SOME KIND OF DREAM OR SOMETHING.
I'VE GOT THIS SINKING FEELING I'M IN OVER MY HEAD...
UMM...
LUCIA-SAN WAS SO MYSTERIOUS AND STRANGE...
BUT SHE WASN'T THE WEIRDEST PART...
THE DORM MATRON IS GOING TO BE SO TICKED AT ME!!
CURFEW!!
DON-G DOOON-G
OH CRAP!

HEY, SUMIRE!
OH, HI, EVERYONE.
ARE YOU ALL HEADED TO THE BATH TOO?
OH YEAH! SUMIRE, BY THE WAY...
I HEARD YOU BROKE CURFEW LAST NIGHT!!
HEE HEE HEE
YOU WENT TO SEE A GUY, RIGHT?! C'MON, 'FESS UP!
YEEK! NO! I DIDN'T, I SWEAR, MIKA-CHAN!
AAAH... THAT'S OKAY, SUMIRE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIE. I KNOW YOU DID.
IN THIS ORDERLY GARDEN OF FEMININITY, WITH ALL ITS STRICT RULES...
THERE'S NOTHING LIKE GOING OUT ON THE TOWN WITH A MAN! KNOWING YOU'RE BREAKING THE RULES ONLY MAKES IT FEEL BETTER!
きゃあ
あんっ
THE STRICTER THE RULES, THE SWEETER THE TABOOS!!
UM, WE'RE HEADING DOWN TO THE BATH NOW, MIKA-CHAN...
KYAAAAA!!!
BATH

OH MY GOD! WHAT'S THAT?!!
TREMBLE
SHAKE
HM?
UMM
LET ME SEE! LET ME SEE!
OH MY GOD, IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL!
NO!! IT'S NOT! I MEAN...
MEEP!
HEH
HOLY CRAP!
I KNEW IT! IT IS A GUY! AND HE'S GIVING YOU JEWELRY, YOU LITTLE MINX!
OH!
THIS? UM... WELL, IT'S...
HEH
HUH?
SHUDDER
HEY! MIKA-CHAN, WHAT'RE YOU--?
YES, IT IS A LOVELY PENDANT.
ACK!

LET ME GET A BETTER LOOK AT IT.
FMP
SLUMP
THUD
OH MY G--!!
IT SMELLS SO VERY, VERY GOOD.
OOOZ
THAT PENDANT...
AND YOU...

YOU SMELL POSITIVELY DELICIOUS. ♥
A "VIRUS"?!

OHMYGOD...
SHVR
SHVR
SHVR
OHMYGOD...
OHMYGOD...
SHWP
KYAAAAAAA!!!
FWSHHH
THUK
THUK
THUK

LEGS... WON'T MOVE...
KRASH
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
AH...
LOOKS LIKE I FINALLY MANAGED TO HOOK THE REAL ONE.
I SMELL ROSES...

KRNCH
FIGURES. THE BETTER THE BAIT, THE FASTER THE BITE.
...?!
SWIPE
YOU. YOU'RE--
YANK
LUCIA-SAN...?!
IT'LL ONLY HURT FOR A SECOND.
DON'T WORRY.

I'LL KILL YOU GENTLY.

Jewelry
and
clothes

Venus Vangard

IT FELT...
STRANGE...

LIKE MY
WHOLE
ARM WENT
THROUGH
SOMETHING
MOIST AND
WARM...

Piece 02: WISHES. CONFUSION.

SOMETHING...
NH....
SMELLS NICE...
WHEN
SUMIRE...

SHF
UHH?!
!
THANK GOD.
YOUR FEVER'S GONE DOWN.
BTHMP
LUCIA... SAN...?
FSH
OH YEAH. THAT'S RIGHT. THIS SCENT...

LIKE ROSES...
HUH...?
THIS SCENT...
I'VE SMELLED IT... SOMEWHERE BEFORE...

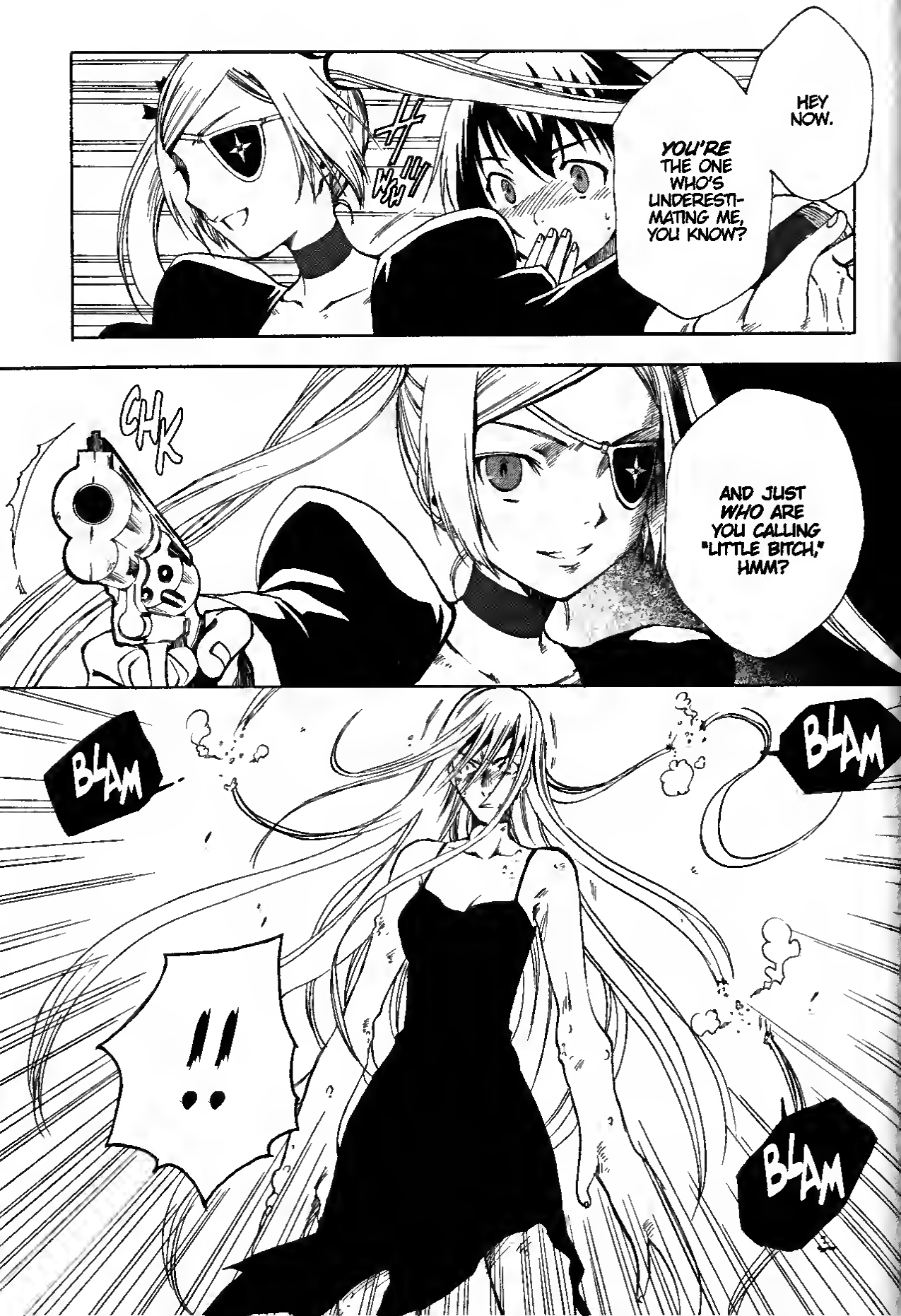
!!
I... I WAS AT MY DORM... AND THEN--!
FWMP
WHERE AM I?! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHERS?!
DO YOU *REALLY* WANT TO REMEMBER?

YOU...
BATH
SHIROGANE PRIVATE GIRLS' ACADEMY CAMPUS DORMITORY
YOUR SCENT IS... STRANGE.
WHAT ARE YOU?
HOW RUDE.
AH WELL. GIVEN MY JOB...
YOU SEEM HUMAN, BUT...
SHUU

...IT SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISING THAT YOU CAN SMELL VIRUS BLOOD ON ME.
I SEE...
SO YOU ARE A HUNTER. WELL, NO MATTER...
HIGLARE
THE STRONGER THE SCENT, THE MORE DELICIOUS THE MORSEL!!

SWIP
SNP
?!
FIRST, THE STONE...
SWISH!!
IT WAS MAGNIFYING THE SCENT YOUR SOUL GIVES OFF.
THAT STONE IS A KIND OF LENS.
JUST A DECOY...
NOW I FEEL LIKE A FOOL.
THIS SCHOOL HAS ALWAYS ATTRACTED ALL SORTS OF SLIMY AND VICIOUS THINGS.
I JUST DECIDED TO WIPE OUT THE ROOT OF THE WHOLE PROBLEM.
HEY, I DID SAY THIS WAS WORK, REMEMBER?
THEN YOU KNEW FROM THE START I WAS GOING TO GET ATTACKED?!
HUH?!
STRAIGHT FACE

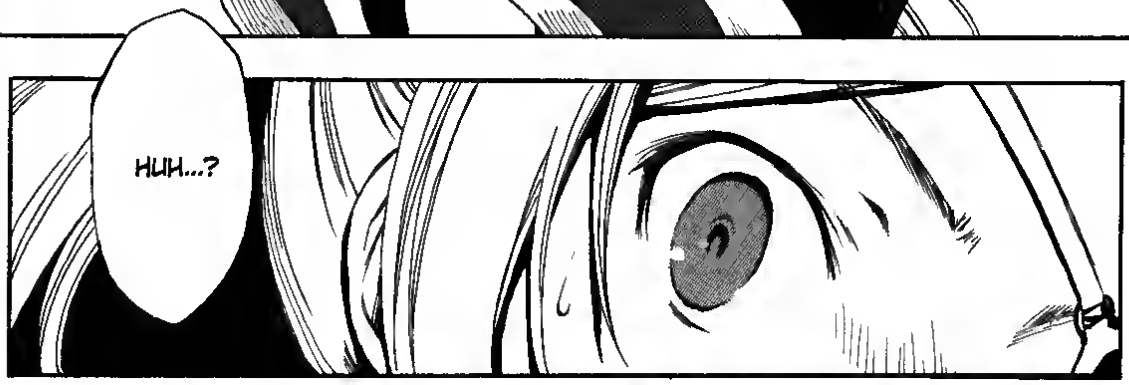
YOUR WORK HAS MADE MY JOB MUCH QUICKER.
WHOOO
I MEAN, YOU LURED OUT THE "ROOT" ITSELF.
IT ALSO HELPS...
THAT THIS PARTICULAR VIRUS HAS A SINGLE-CELL BRAIN.
LITTLE BITCH! DON'T YOU DARE UNDERESTIMATE ME!!
HH
SWOOSH


HEY NOW.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S UNDERESTIMATING ME, YOU KNOW?
AND JUST WHO ARE YOU CALLING "LITTLE BITCH," HMM?
CHK
BLAM
BLAM
!!
BLAM

HA HA
WELL? SO HOW ARE THEY?
DO MY SPECIAL BULLETS TASTE GOOD?
THEY'RE MADE USING BITS OF YOUR VIRUS PALS...
FZZZZ
A SORT OF "VACCINE" MADE FROM DEMONS, IF YOU WILL.
.....
TWITCH
SNEER

YANK
WHA--?
SHWIP
?!
AH!
CRAP!
SHE DISTRACTED ME...!!
WHY YOU--!
BLAM

WHAP


HUH...?

HEH HEH
VERY NICELY DONE.
♥
レロ
SLURRP

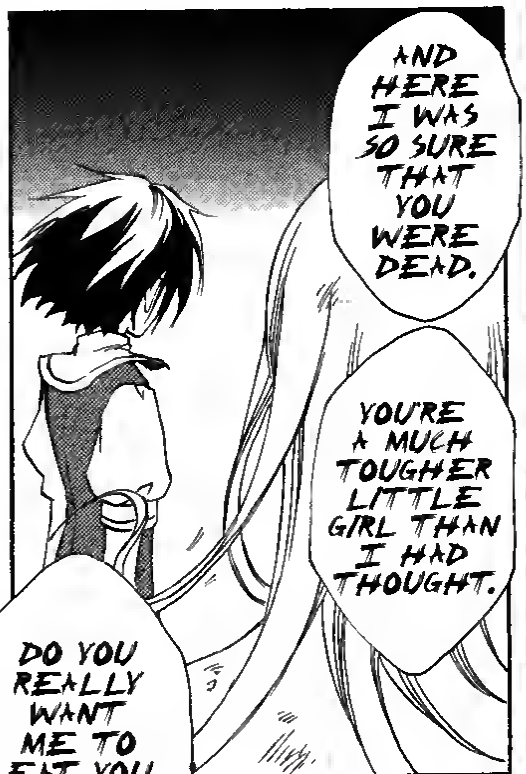
……!!
THUD

I SHOT SUMIRE!!
DAMMIT...
BTHMP
CHK
BTHMP
OH MY GOD! WHAT HAVE I DONE...?!
BTHMP
NOW, NOW. DON'T GET TOO DESPERATE, DEAR.
BUT WAIT... THOSE BULLETS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO WORK ON REGULAR HUMANS.
WHY? WHY, DAMMIT?!
YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO GO FROM "MONSTER HUNTER" TO "MURDERER," NOW WOULD YOU?
SHF
IF IT WAS, THEN USING IT NOW IS TOO DANGEROUS!
WAS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE VACCINE? WAS IT MIXED INCORRECTLY?
GRIND

USING MY GUN ON A THIRD-RATE VIRUS LIKE YOU WOULD BE NOTHING BUT A WASTE OF BULLETS.
BTHMP
IT'S EITHER THIS OR I TAKE OFF THE EYE PATCH.
BTHMP
HMPH.
SWK
HMM. HAVE YOU ACCEPTED YOUR FATE?
SHFL
SHFL SHFL

WOBBLE
WAVER
!!
SUMIRE...?!
GOD, DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT!
WHEW
?

.....?
TWITCH
WHAT THE HELL?! WHY DO I SUDDENLY HAVE A REALLY BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS?


AND HERE I WAS SO SURE THAT YOU WERE DEAD.
YOU'RE A MUCH TOUGHER LITTLE GIRL THAN I HAD THOUGHT.
DO YOU REALLY WANT ME TO EAT YOU THAT BADLY?

SHMP

COME HERE, YOU PRETTY LITTLE BUTTERFLY.
SHWIP
SHAK
RIP
LET HER GO!

SNAP
GRAB
WHAT THE...?!
!!

SHRUNK
AAAAAAHHHH!!!
SHRIIP
AHHH!!
ACH!
RCH!
RCH!
WHUPH!!

IT FELT LIKE PUSHING MY ARM...

THROUGH SOMETHING WARM... SOFT...

...AND WET.
BTHMP
!!
I...?!
L-L-LUCIA-SAN...
I... I... D-DID I...
SMK
SMK
SMK
CALM DOWN, SUMIRE.
HERE. LET ME GO MAKE SOME TEA FOR YOU.
DID I DO... THAT?!
がば
FWMP
あ

"ANTI-BODIES"?
AS WE HAVE ALREADY MENTIONED...
THE BULLET WITH WHICH YOU WERE SHOT WAS NOT A NORMAL ONE.
ON THE VAST MAJORITY OF OCCASIONS, A HUMAN SHOT WITH THAT KIND OF BULLET WOULD, AT MOST, RECEIVE A SMALL BRUISE.
IT IS ESSENTIALLY NO MORE EFFECTIVE THAN A TOY. HOWEVER, IN YOUR CASE...
IT SEEMS TO HAVE CAUSED AN *UNANTICIPATED* REACTION— MUCH LIKE WHEN YOU PRICKED YOUR FINGER ON THE BROOCH

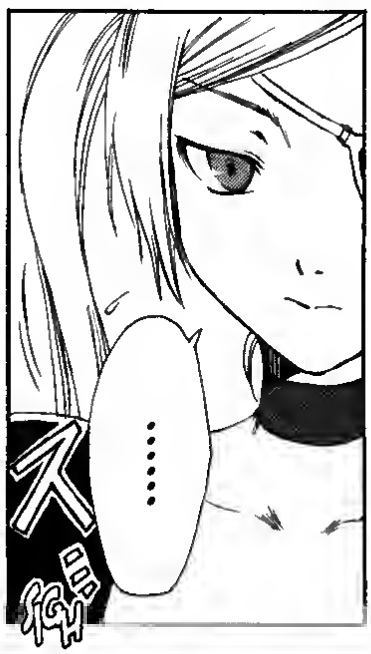
I HAVE NEVER SEEN A CASE SIMILAR TO YOURS.
I WILL LIKELY NEED TO DO DETAILED RESEARCH ON YOU TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT AND IMPLICATIONS OF YOUR CHANGE.
HOWEVER, AT THIS STAGE...
THERE IS ONE THING I CAN SAY WITH CERTAINTY.
THIS POWER YOU HAVE GAINED IS ABNORMALLY STRONG.
THE POTENTIAL OF YOUR PHYSICAL POWERS AND YOUR ABILITY TO FIGHT VIRUSES IS STAGGERING.
YOU HAVE BECOME, IN ESSENCE, A HUMAN "ANTIVIRUS."
ME...?
.....
LET ME GET STRAIGHT TO THE POINT...

I WANT YOU TO USE THESE NEW POWERS OF YOURS TO HELP US.
HUH...?
COMPARED TO OTHERS WITH "VISION," YOURS IS *INCREDIBLY* STRONG.
IT'S QUITE LIKELY THAT STRONGER, NASTIER VIRUSES ARE GOING TO COME AFTER YOU.
DO YOU *REALLY* THINK YOU CAN HANDLE THEM BY YOURSELF?

W-WHAT?! BUT... BUT...
I KNOW WHOSE FAULT THIS IS, WHO GOT YOU WRAPPED UP IN THIS MESS TO BEGIN WITH. ME.
I CAN SAY "SORRY," BUT THAT'S NOT GOING TO CHANGE THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION.
STAY HERE WITH US AND WE CAN PROTECT YOU. WE MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE TO FIND A WAY TO RETURN YOU TO THE WAY YOU WERE.

B... BUT...
I'M SCARED...
SHF

I WON'T ASK YOU TO ANSWER RIGHT AWAY...
TWITCH
BUT I DO WANT YOU TO REMEMBER ONE THING.
PAT


.....
SIGH

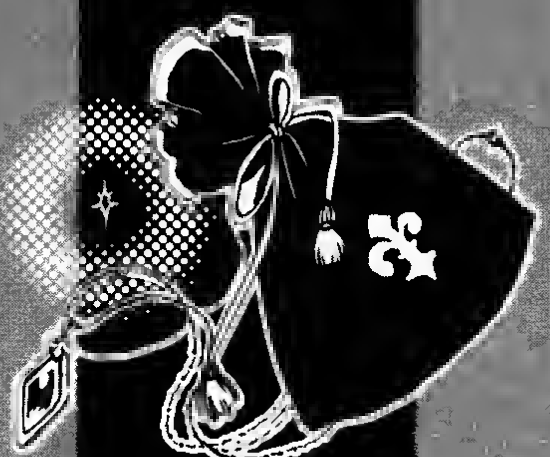
WE NEED YOU.
.....
STAND
IT'S LATE. PERHAPS YOU HAD BEST RETURN TO YOUR DORMITORY.
I CAN TAKE YOU CLOSE TO THERE, BUT NOT ALL--
NO.
I CAN GET THERE BY MYSELF.
GLOW
THAT'S OKAY.
O

I BROKE CURFEW AGAIN.
SIGH.
LOOKS LIKE...
WE NEED YOU.
I'M STILL SCARED.
SHIVR
CAFE DE
NOBODY'S EVER SAID THAT TO ME BEFORE.
WHY WOULD ANYBODY EVER NEED ME?
I MEAN, I'M NOT PARTICULARLY GOOD AT ANYTHING.
BUT...

I CAN'T BELIEVE I DID SOMETHING SO HORRIFIC.
I CAN STILL FEEL IT...
I CAN STILL FEEL WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO... TO...
MAYBE THAT'S WHAT SCARES ME THE MOST.
IT'S NOT THOSE MONSTERS, THOSE "VIRUSES," BUT RATHER, HOW MUCH I'M CHANGING.

Jewelry
and
clothes

Venus Vangard

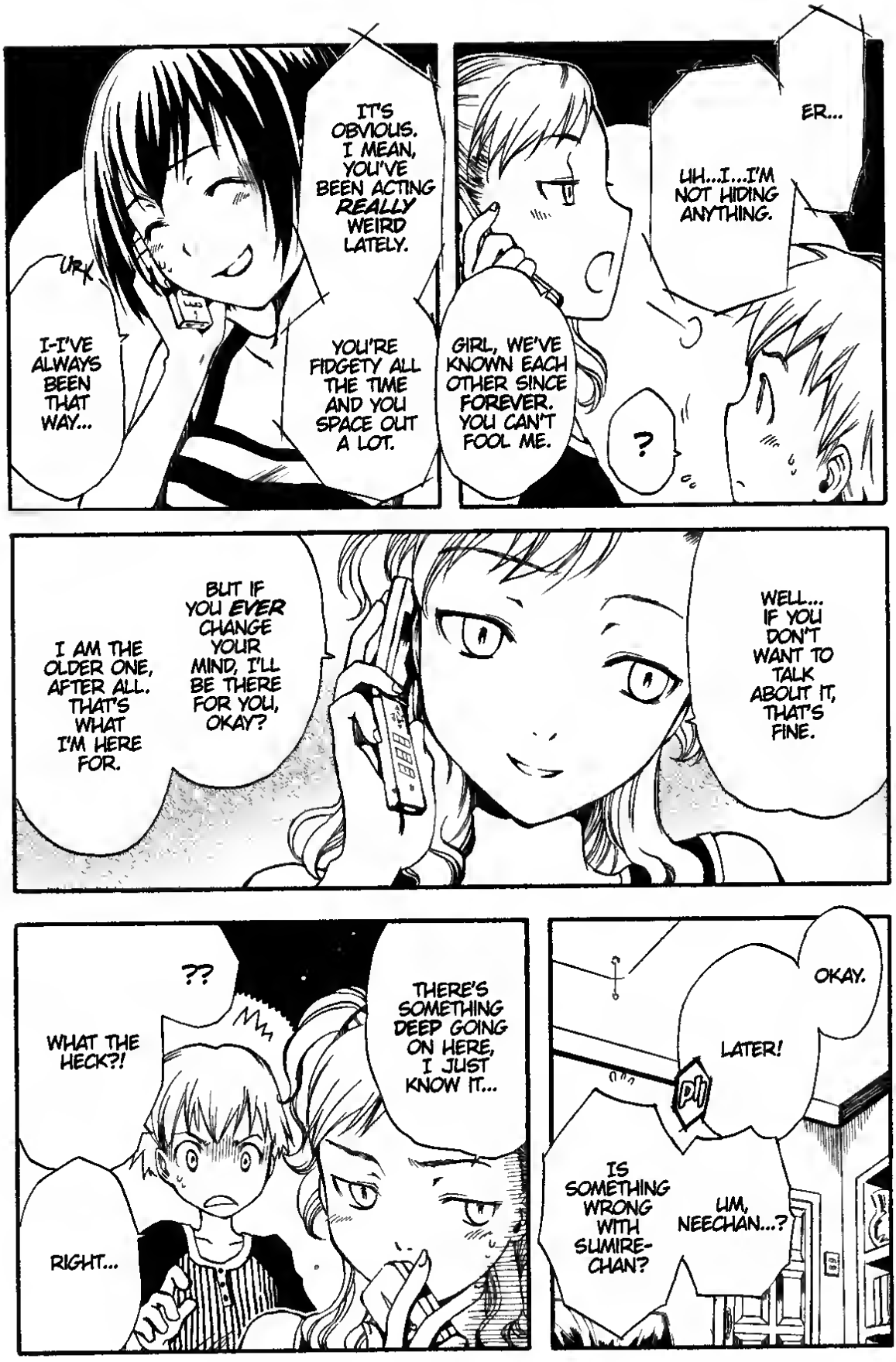


NENE-SEMPAI!!
IT'S SO NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN...
HUH? RIKU-KUN? WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
HE WANTED TO SEE YOU IN A UNIFORM SO BADLY, HE TOOK TODAY OFF FROM SCHOOL.
WHISPER
HUH?! NEECHAN, DON'T TELL HER THAT!!
LECHEROUS LITTLE BRAT, ISN'T HE?
W-WELL...
WE MAY BE AT THE SAME SCHOOL NOW, BUT YOU'RE IN HIGH SCHOOL, AND I'M JUST STARTING JUNIOR HIGH. SO I FIGURED IT WASN'T RIGHT TO CALL YOU "NENE-CHAN."
WHATCHA CALLING ME THAT FOR, SUMIRE-CHAN?
WHAT DOES IT MATTER? I DON'T CARE. WE'RE COUSINS, GIRL. "NENE-CHAN" IS FINE.
YEAH! BESIDES, NEECHAN WOULD NEVER MAKE A GOOD SEMPAI!
私立 銀女学院 中学部
入学式々場
SHIROGANE PRIVATE GIRLS' ACADEMY JUNIOR HIGH ENTRANCE CEREMONY
ALL RIGHT, YOU THREE, I WANT TO TAKE A PICTURE.
ME TOO?!

Piece 03: FLEETINGNESS. FEELINGS.

I WANT YOU TO USE THESE NEW POWERS OF YOURS TO HELP US.
...
ごろん...
FLOP
SIGH
POWERS...
I HAVE "POWERS" NOW...
!
ピピピピ
BEEP!

OH. IT'S JUST NENE-CHAN.
HELLO?
MORNING, SUMIRE-CHAN!
MORNING. WHAT'S UP?
NOT MUCH. I WAS JUST WONDERING IF YOU WERE UP FOR A MOVIE...
WITH ME AND RIKU. IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'VE GOT ANYTHING ELSE TO DO IN THAT DORM, RIGHT?
OH... UM... SORRY...
THERE'S SOMEWHERE ELSE I NEED TO GO TODAY.
MAYBE SOME OTHER TIME?
OH. AH WELL.
HEY, SUMIRE-CHAN...?
HM?
YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING FROM ME, AREN'T YOU?
!


ER...
UH...I...I'M NOT HIDING ANYTHING.
?
GIRL, WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER SINCE FOREVER. YOU CAN'T FOOL ME.
IT'S OBVIOUS. I MEAN, YOU'VE BEEN ACTING REALLY WEIRD LATELY.
YOU'RE FIDGETY ALL THE TIME AND YOU SPACE OUT A LOT.
URK
I-I'VE ALWAYS BEEN THAT WAY...
WELL... IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT, THAT'S FINE.
BUT IF YOU EVER CHANGE YOUR MIND, I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU, OKAY?
I AM THE OLDER ONE, AFTER ALL. THAT'S WHAT I'M HERE FOR.
OKAY.
LATER!
PI
UM, NEECHAN...?
IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH SUMIRE-CHAN?
THERE'S SOMETHING DEEP GOING ON HERE, I JUST KNOW IT...
??
WHAT THE HECK?!
RIGHT...

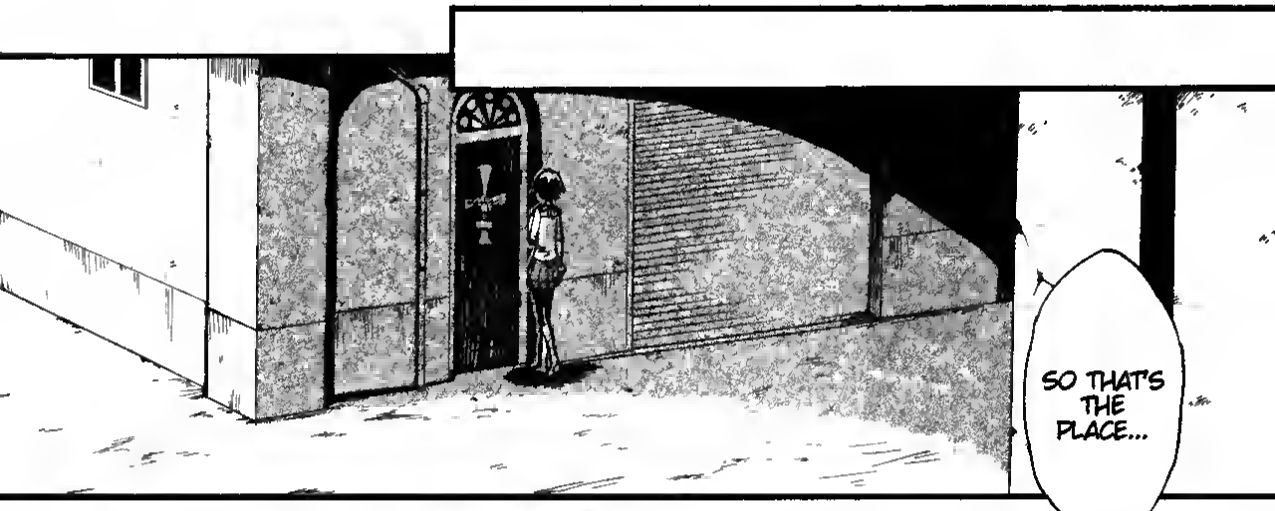
LET'S GO, RIKU!
SPN
HUH?! AW, MAN! DO I HAVE TO GO TO A MOVIE WITH JUST YOU?
NO, MORON...
PI
TOK
SIGH
.....
LUCIA-SAN GAVE ME THAT RING.
I GUESS I NEED TO GO GIVE IT BACK TO HER, HUH?
A RING...? WAIT A MINUTE, YOU AREN'T GIVING ME ANOTHER--
じと
GLARE
HEE HEE
RELAX. THE STONE IN THAT RING HAS THE OPPOSITE EFFECT OF THE PENDANT I GAVE YOU BEFORE.
THINK OF IT AS A SIMPLE KIND OF PROTECTIVE CHARM.
?

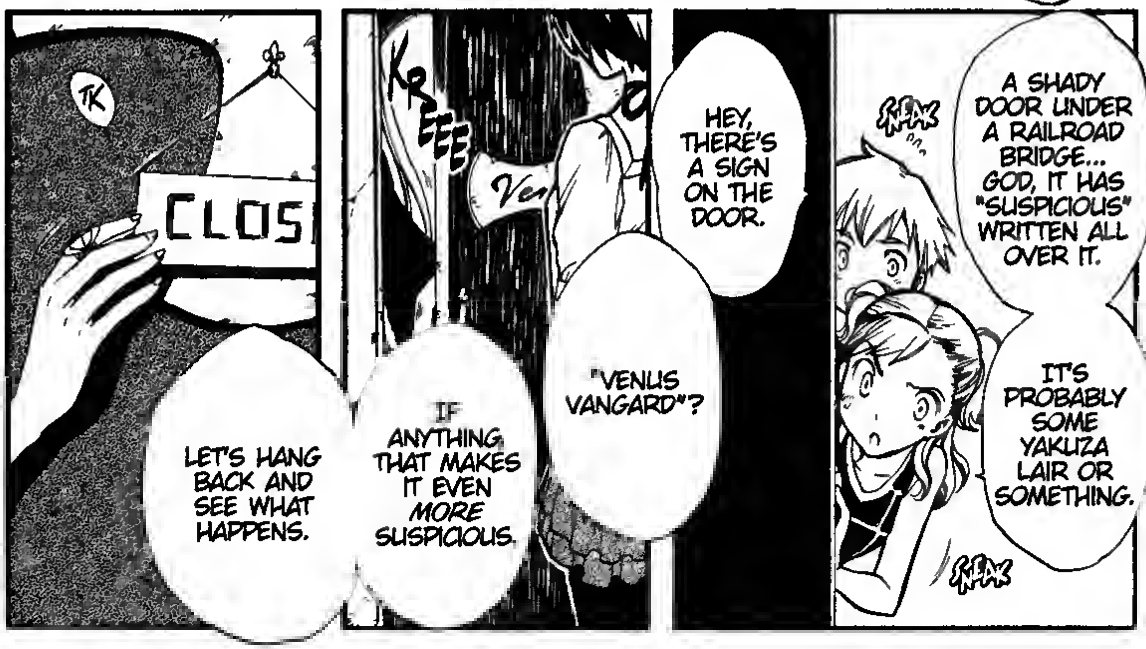
IT'S JUST... A CHARM?
REALLY?
YES, REALLY.
CARRYING IT AROUND IS NOT GOING TO GET YOU IN ANY TROUBLE.
B-BUT I COULDN'T POSSIBLY JUST TAKE IT. IT LOOKS SO EXPENSIVE AND ALL.
AND I REALLY DON'T THINK I'M GOING TO BE OF ANY HELP TO YOU.
THAT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU HAVING THE RING.
TAKE IT, OKAY?
LUCIA-SAN SOUNDED LIKE SHE WAS SO SURE OF ME.
BUT STILL, I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL THIS IS WASTED ON ME.
I'LL GO AND GIVE THIS BACK TO HER TODAY.
SWF
AND THIS TIME... I'LL BE CLEAR ABOUT DECLINING HER OFFER.
I MEAN...

I CAN'T FIGHT THOSE MONSTERS AGAIN.
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD DO IT.
RUSTLE
.....
LOOKS LIKE SHE'S ON THE MOVE.
I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING WEIRD GOING ON!
NEECHAN, COME ON! WHY DO WE HAVE TO SNEAK AROUND LIKE THIS?!
SHE NEVER GOES OUT BY HERSELF! SHE'S TOO SHY!
RIKU...
GLARE

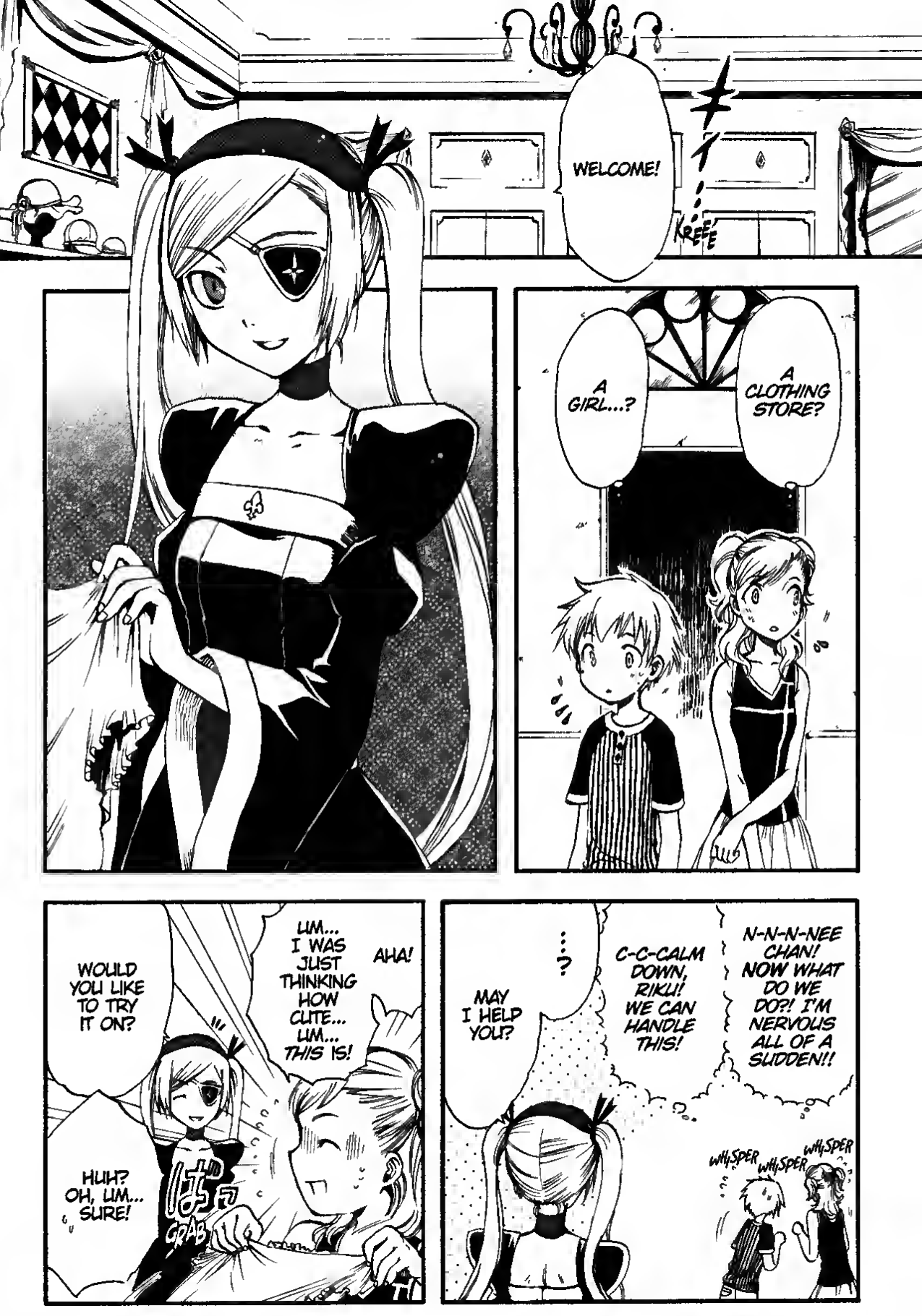
PROTECT HER...?
THEN BE A MAN, OKAY?! MEN STAY IN THE SHADOWS, QUIETLY WATCHING OVER AND PROTECTING THEIR LOVED ONES.
Y-Y-YOU WOULDN'T ?!!
OH HO HO HO
LIKE SUMIRE-CHAN HERSELF?
YOU DON'T WANT ME TELLING ANYONE HOW MADLY IN LOVE YOU ARE WITH SUMIRE-CHAN, HMM?
BLUSH
HO HO
BWAHAHAHA HAHA HAHAHA!
THAT JUST HAS TO BE IT!
YES! I MEAN, SUMIRE-CHAN IS SUCH A QUIET, FRAIL GIRL!
I'M SURE SHE WAS IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME, AND SOME YAKUZA TYPES SAW HER, AND NOW THEY'RE FORCING HER TO BRING THEM MONEY AND STUFF!!
UM, NEECHAN, YOU'RE GETTING KINDA LOUD...!
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE YOUNGER, YOU'RE STILL A RELIABLE MAN WHO CAN PROTECT HER.
ぽわわ
Mm
YOU HAVE A SHOT TO MAKE YOUR CASE TO SUMIRE-CHAN!
THIS IS YOUR CHANCE, RIKU!
:
!!
OOOOOOOOOOOHHH!
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT

EXCELLENT! I WOULDN'T EXPECT ANY LESS OF MY LITTLE BROTHER!!
RIGHT! LET'S DO IT, NEECHAN!!
NOW LET'S GET STALKING!!
.....


SO THAT'S THE PLACE...


A SHADY DOOR UNDER A RAILROAD BRIDGE... GOD, IT HAS "SUSPICIOUS" WRITTEN ALL OVER IT.
IT'S PROBABLY SOME YAKUZA LAIR OR SOMETHING.
HEY, THERE'S A SIGN ON THE DOOR.
"VENUS VANGARD"?
IF ANYTHING, THAT MAKES IT EVEN MORE SUSPICIOUS.
LET'S HANG BACK AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS.
TK
CLOS

HM?
SLURP
AH...
THERE! SUMIRE-CHAN JUST CAME OUT!
SIGH
BTAM
OPEN
WE GO IN... AND TAKE A LOOK.
RIGHT.
SO NOW WHAT...?
SHE LOOKS DISTRESSED...
I KNEW IT! WHATEVER SHE'S HIDING FROM US, THAT PLACE IS THE SOURCE.


WELCOME!
KREEE
A GIRL...?
A CLOTHING STORE?
N-N-N-NEE CHAN! NOW WHAT DO WE DO?! I'M NERVOUS ALL OF A SUDDEN!!
C-C-CALM DOWN, RIKU! WE CAN HANDLE THIS!
...?
MAY I HELP YOU?
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
AHA!
UM... I WAS JUST THINKING HOW CUTE... UM... THIS IS!
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY IT ON?
HUH? OH, UM... SURE!
GRAB

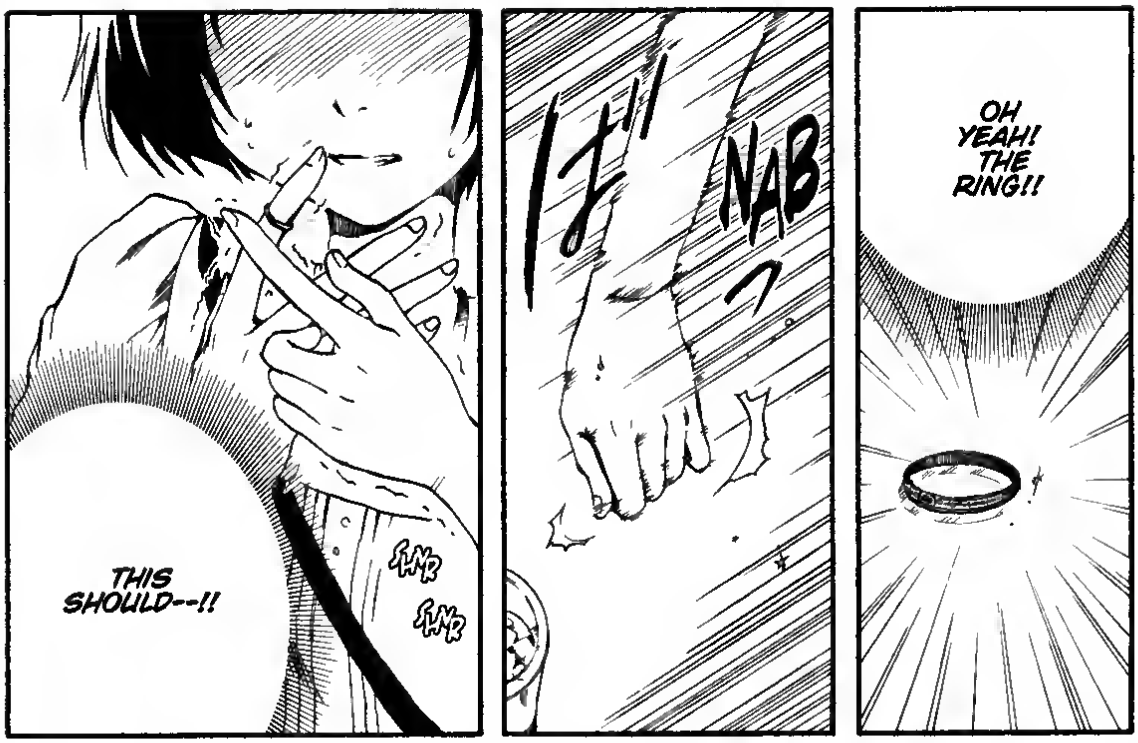
HOW LOVELY! THAT BLOUSE LOOKS VERY GOOD ON YOU, MISS.
OOOOOOOOOHHH
ほへ
?
UM... S-S-SORRY! I DON'T THINK I'LL TAKE IT AFTER ALL! GOODBYE!
?
THANK YOU FOR COMING...
DASH
WAIT!
THIS ISN'T WHY WE CAME HERE!!
HUFF
HUFF
HOLY CRAP...
THAT WAS CLOSE!
WE ALMOST FELL INTO THEIR TRAP!
THAT STORE PROBABLY TRICKS PEOPLE INTO BUYING STUFF.
LIKE, IF YOU'RE NOT PAYING ATTENTION, THEY ROPE YOU INTO BUYING A MEGA-EXPENSIVE VASE OR SOMETHING!
NO WAY! THEN, SUMIRE-CHAN MIGHT'VE BEEN TRICKED INTO BUYING SOMETHING SHE CAN'T AFFORD...?!

DON'T WORRY.
IN THIS KIND OF SITUATION, ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS FIND THE CONTRACT OR WHATEVER THEY MADE HER SIGN AND DESTROY IT.
AWESOME!
YOU KNOW EVERYTHING, NEECHAN! IT'S LIKE YOU'RE THE DETECTIVE IN A MYSTERY NOVEL!!
BTHMP
BTHMP
NOW, WE WAIT FOR THEM TO GIVE US AN OPENING, AND THEN WE GO FIND THAT CONTRACT!
Venus Vanyare
CLOSED
SIGH...
NOW WHAT...?
TINK
I COULDN'T GET HER TO TAKE THE RING BACK...
AND I COULDN'T REALLY SAY NO TO THEIR OFFER, EITHER.

I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO MAKE A STAND AND TAKE CONTROL OF MY LIFE.
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN DRAGGED ALONG BY SOMETHING OR ANOTHER.
NOT LIKE THAT'S ANYTHING NEW, THOUGH.
AND I'M STARTING TO GET SICK OF--
スッ
SING
NO WAY!

KA-THUNK
!!
A VIRUS?!
LOOK OUT--
SWISH
?
?
GLANCE
GLANCE
UMK
AH...

THEY ONLY ATTACK PEOPLE WITH "VISION," LIKE...
SIGH
VIRUSES DON'T GO AFTER NORMAL PEOPLE.
KTNK
WHEW
OH YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
SHIVER
ME...
UH...!!


THIS SHOULD--!!
FUMP
FUMP
NAB
OH YEAH! THE RING!!

A DINKY LITTLE THING LIKE THAT CAN'T HIDE A SCENT AS STRONG AS YOURS.
KIII
HEH, HEH, HEH.
THAT WON'T WORK, LITTLE GIRL...

OOH, I LOVE THAT FACE! FEAR IS SUCH A TURN-ON...
HN? YOU WANT TO PLAY TAG?
I HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!!
WHRL
WHAT THE HELL. WHY NOT? TAG, IT IS!
HEH...
SWSH
AREN'T I NICE?
!!

OH GOD, I'M SO SCARED!!
AHH! WATCH IT!!
WHUP
WHUP
I KNEW I COULDN'T DO IT!
HEY!!
!!
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD FIGHT THAT... THAT... THING!
TMP TMP TMP
TMP TMP TMP
HFF
HFF
BUT...
SPENDING MY ENTIRE LIFE RUNNING AWAY LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME...
HFF
HFF
IS EVEN WORSE!!
SOMEBODY HELP ME!
SQUEEZE
LUCIA-SAN!!
HFF

TWITCH
FZZT
LUCIA?
I'M GOING TO GO OUT FOR A SEC. BE BACK SOON.
THE
BTAM
LOOKS LIKE SHE'S RUNNING AN ERRAND OR SOMETHING.
PERFECT. NOW'S OUR CHANCE!
...?!
TP

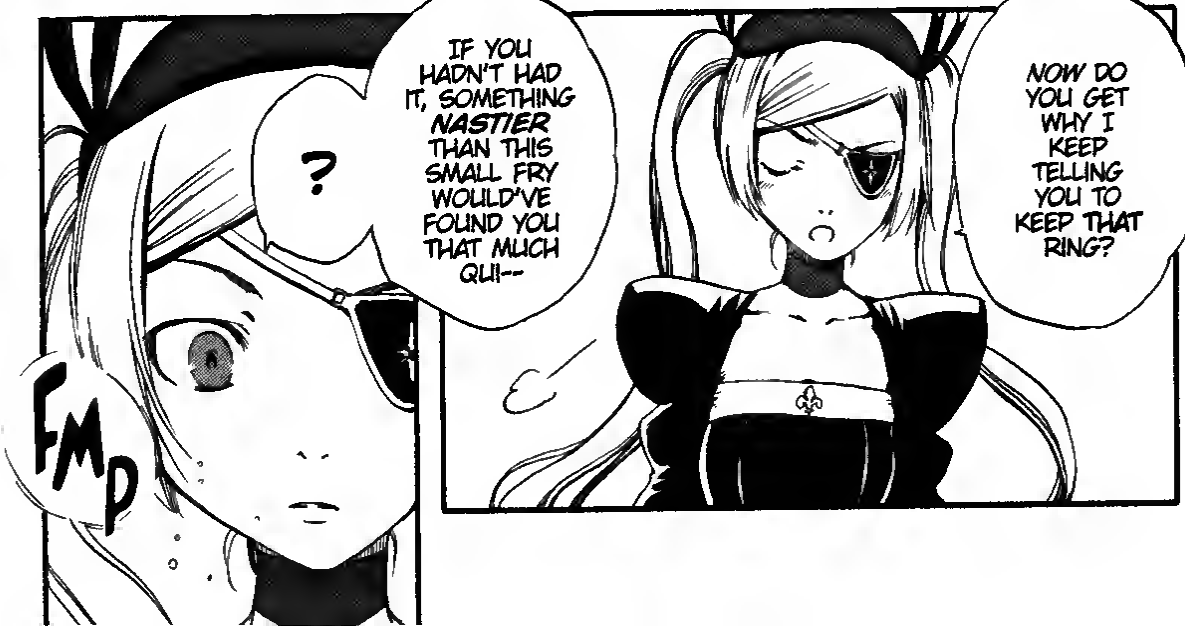
THEN MAYBE LUCIA-SAN CAN HELP!
THE SHOP! THAT'S IT! IF I CAN KEEP AHEAD OF HIM LONG ENOUGH TO REACH THE SHOP...!
HFF
HFF
HEY, BABE... YOU KNOW WHAT?
I'M STARTING TO GET BORED.
SKCH SKCH
WHAT YOU SAY WE END THIS LITTLE GAME, 'KAY?
HWOOM

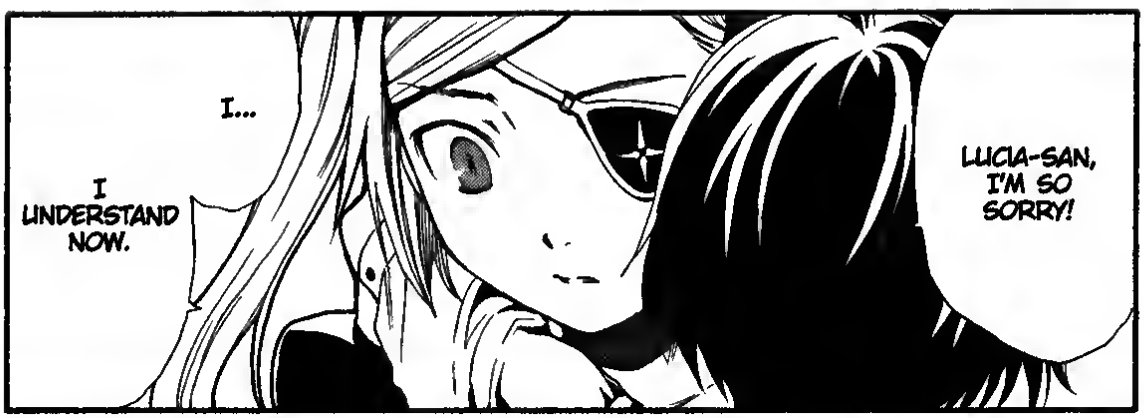
WHUMP
YAWN
JUST YOU, DUDE. YOU STILL DRUNK OR SOMETHING?
HA HA HA
HEY... WAS IT JUST ME, OR DID A GIRL JUST FLY BY US?
?
?
?!
SO, WHAT GAME DO YOU WANT TO PLAY NEXT?
SKS
WHAT, NO REQUESTS...?
SKSSHHHH

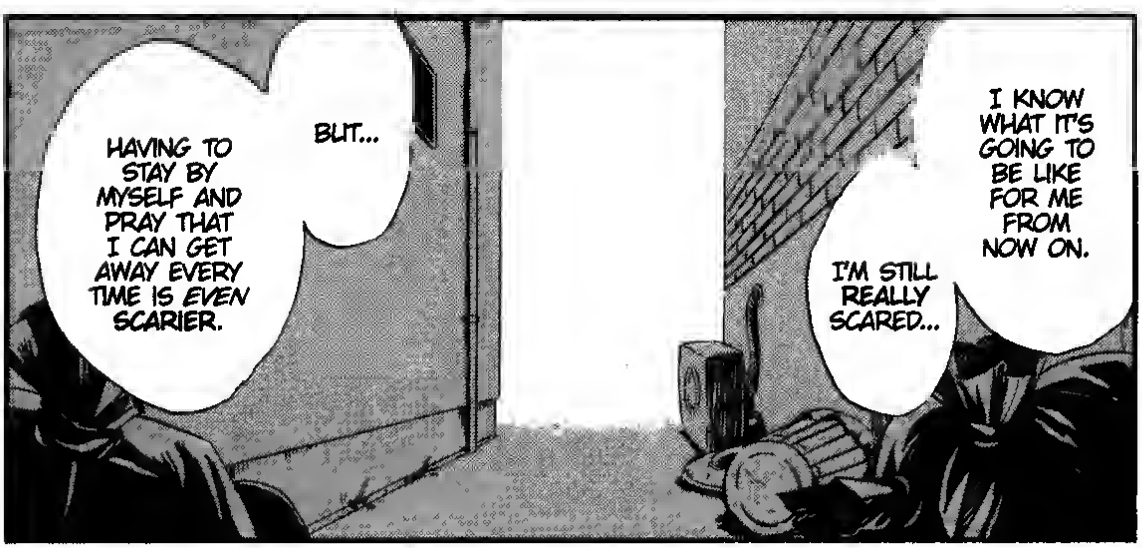
THEN DO YOU MIND IF I GO AHEAD AND EAT YOU THEN? NO? GREAT.
AH...
GOTCHA.
BLAM

I WAS "IT," NOT YOU.
TOO BAD.
GNK

LUCIA-SAN...!
SNIFF
LU--


?
IF YOU HADN'T HAD IT, SOMETHING NASTIER THAN THIS SMALL FRY WOULD'VE FOUND YOU THAT MUCH QUI--
NOW DO YOU GET WHY I KEEP TELLING YOU TO KEEP THAT RING?
FMD


I...
I UNDERSTAND NOW.
LUCIA-SAN, I'M SO SORRY!

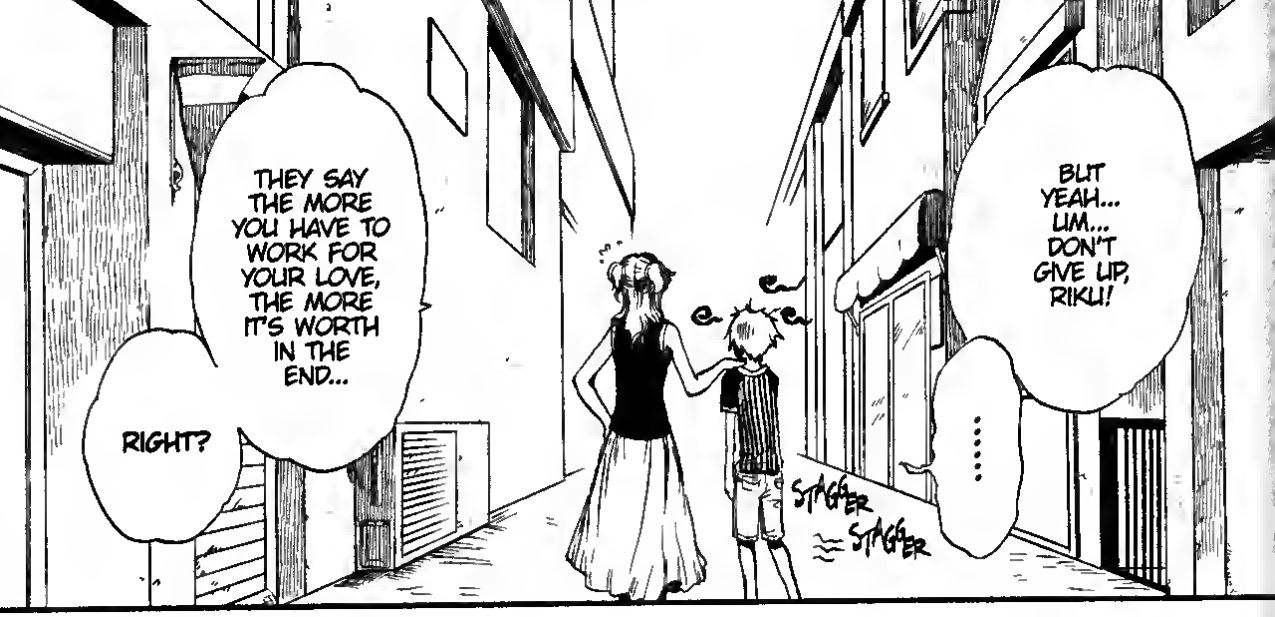

HAVING TO STAY BY MYSELF AND PRAY THAT I CAN GET AWAY EVERY TIME IS EVEN SCARIER.
BUT...
I'M STILL REALLY SCARED...
I KNOW WHAT IT'S GOING TO BE LIKE FOR ME FROM NOW ON.

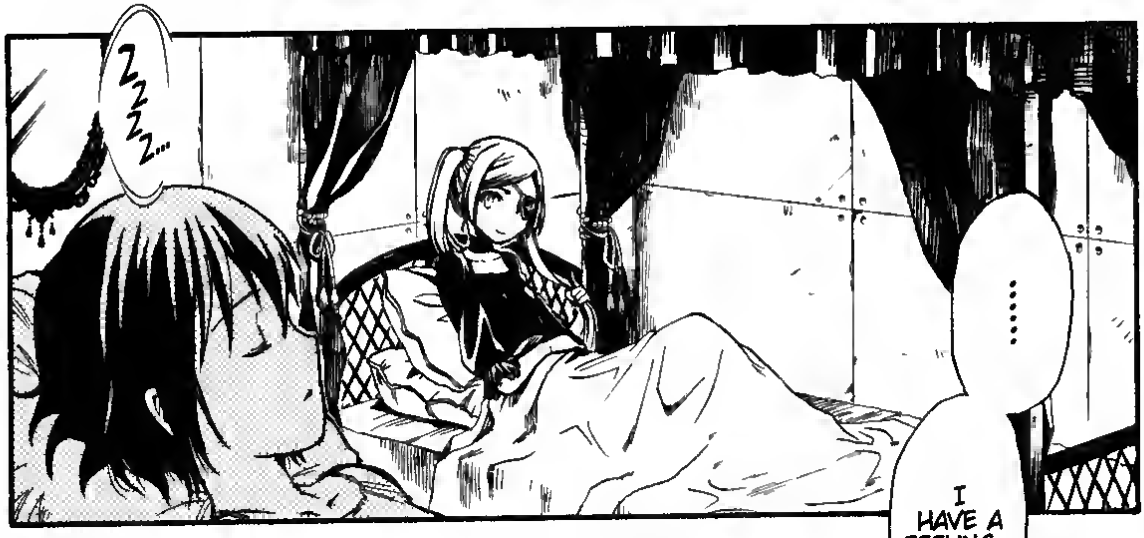
RUNNING WON'T WORK.
THE ONLY WAY TO PROTECT MYSELF IS TO LEARN HOW TO FIGHT THOSE THINGS.
THAT'S THE REALITY OF IT, ISN'T IT?
C'MON, SUMIRE...
I'LL WALK YOU BACK TO YOUR DORM.
NO.
THERE'S...
SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO ASK OF YOU.

OH CRAP!!
YEEP?!
NAHASHI, WE'RE BACK!
KREEE
SHL SHL SHL
RIFLING THROUGH THINGS
COULD YOU PULL OUT THE TRUNDLE BED AND PUT IT IN MY ROOM?
...?!
HMM?
SUMIRE-KUN...?
SUMIRE-CHAN...?!
BUT...
I'M SORRY TO ASK YOU SOMETHING BIG LIKE THIS SO SUDDENLY...

!
THEN...
IS IT OKAY IF I LIVE HERE?
YES.
I STILL DON'T KNOW IF I'LL BE OF ANY REAL HELP TO YOU...
BUT I KNOW I CAN'T JUST GO BACK TO BEING THE WAY I WAS BEFORE.
AND WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE NOW, STAYING AT THE DORM IS OUT OF THE QUESTION.
BTHMP—BTHMP—BTHMP
I THINK I KNOW WHERE THIS IS GOING...!!
OH GOD...

I WANT TO BE WITH LUCIA AS MUCH AS I CAN.
THUNK
PAT
I HAD NO CLUE SHE SWUNG THAT WAY.
AWW MAN...!
LOOKS LIKE YOUR AGE WASN'T REALLY THE PROBLEM AFTER ALL.
GLOOOOM


THEY SAY THE MORE YOU HAVE TO WORK FOR YOUR LOVE, THE MORE IT'S WORTH IN THE END...
RIGHT?
STAGGER
STAGGER
.....
BUT YEAH... LIM... DON'T GIVE UP, RIKU!


Z Z Z Z...
.....
I HAVE A FEELING...

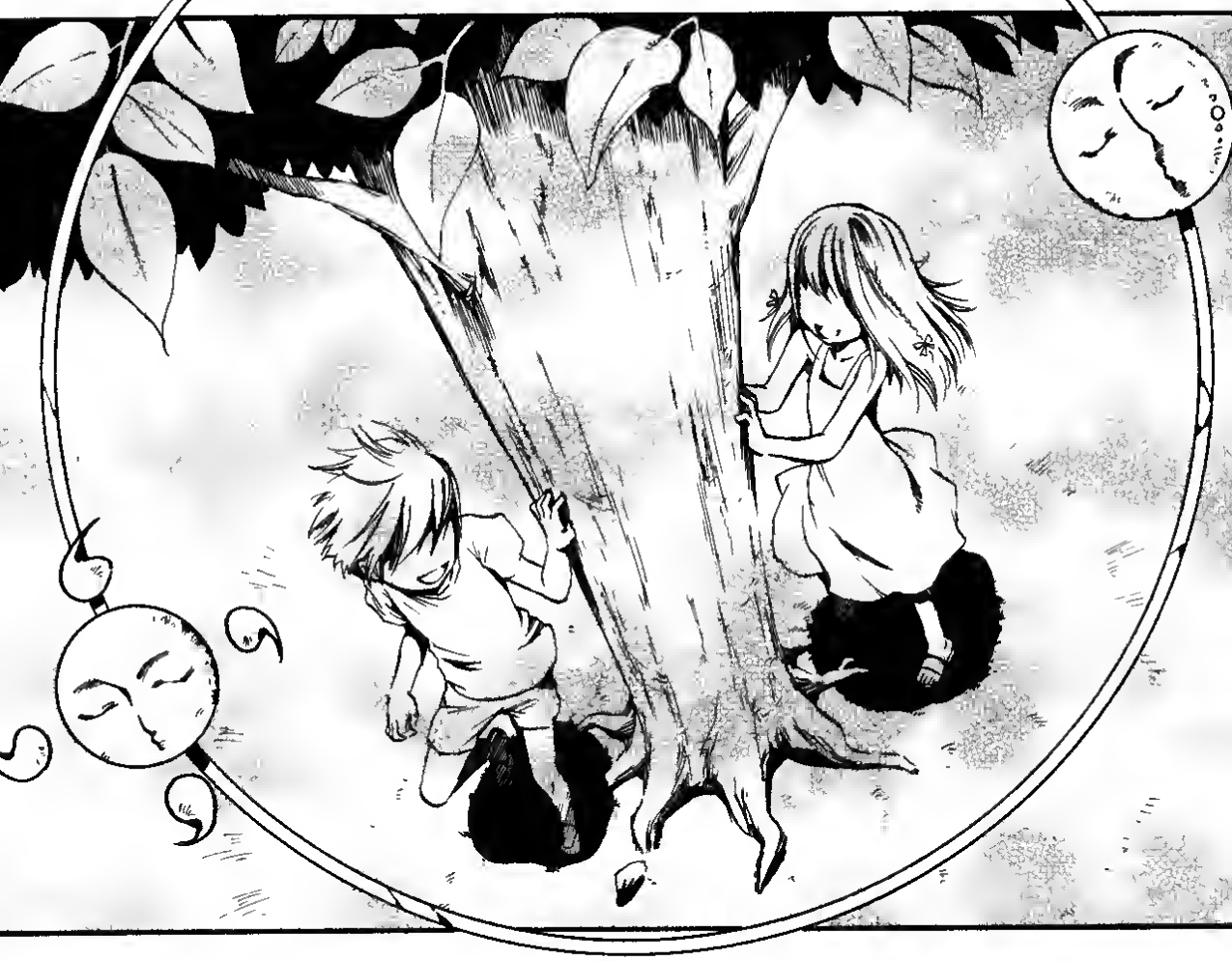
Z Z Z Z...
THAT THINGS ARE GOING TO BE PRETTY BUSY FROM NOW ON.

Jewelry
and
clothes

Venus Vangard

THEY CHASED EACH OTHER
'ROUND AND 'ROUND...

JUST LIKE THE SUN AND MOON...

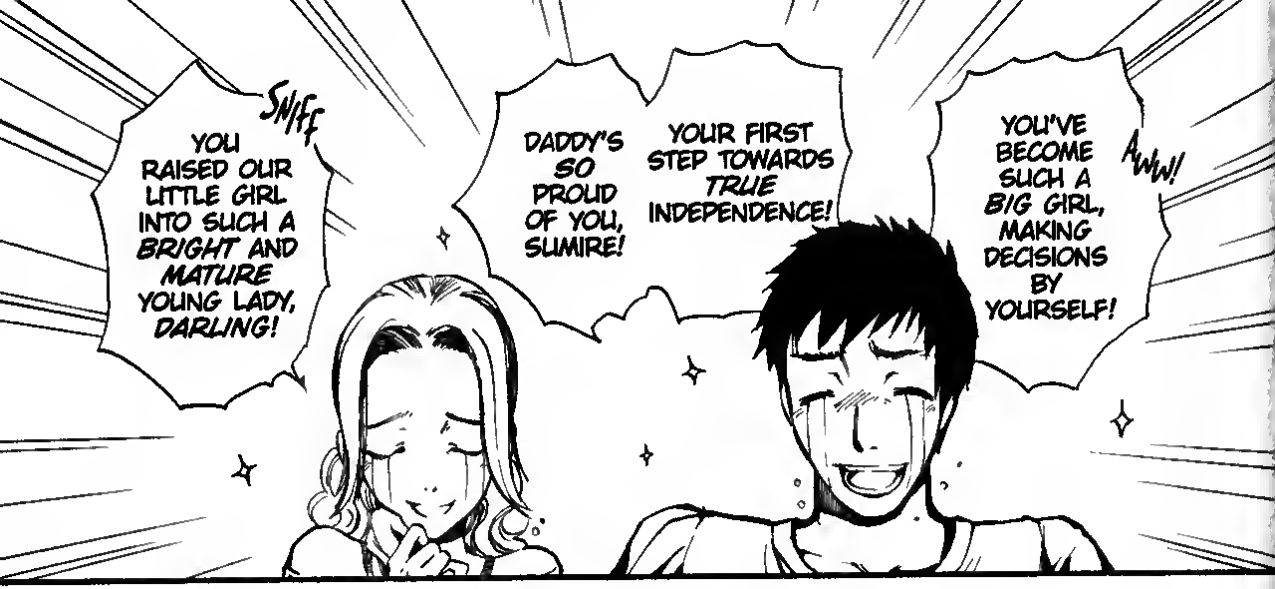


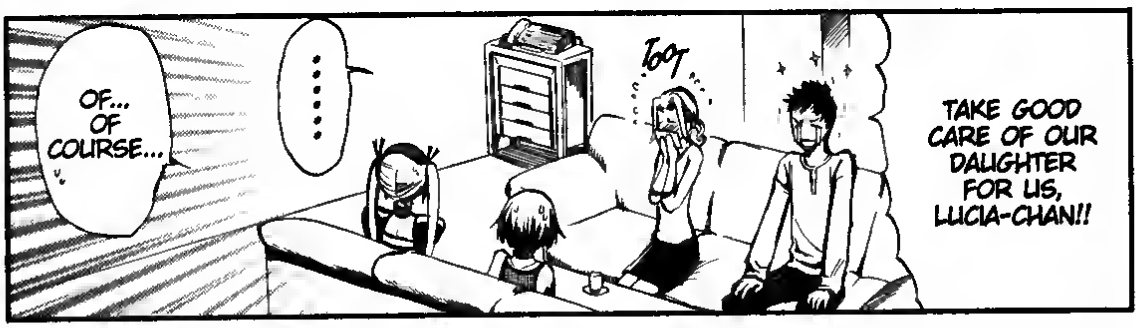
ETERNALLY CHASING EACH OTHER
'ROUND THE EARTH.

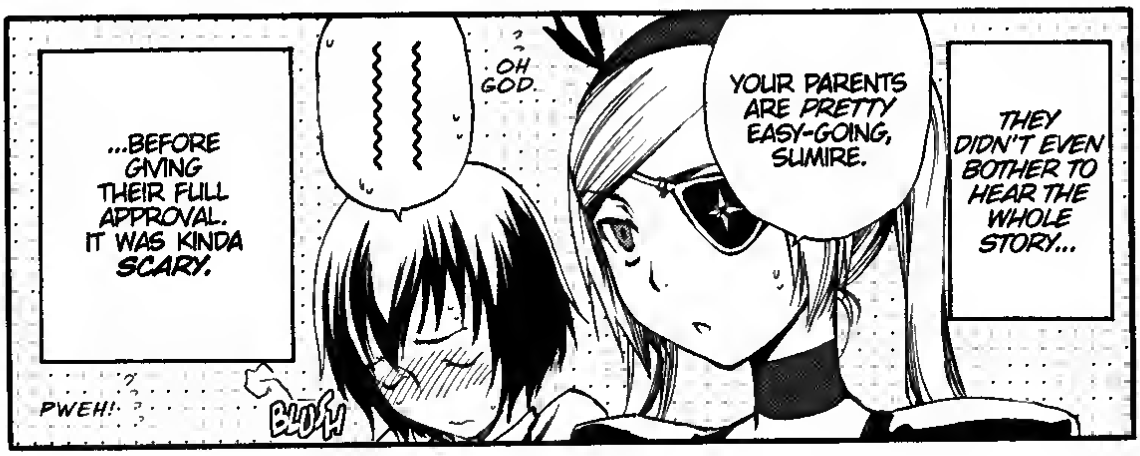
Piece 04:
WORK. SIGNS.

A FEW DAYS AFTER MY NARROW ESCAPE...
I MOVED IN WITH LUCIA-SAN IN THE BASEMENT OF THE SHOP.
AHA!
HEY, YOU HEARD SHE MOVED OUT OF THE DORM, RIGHT? DO YOU KNOW WHY?
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SEMESTER TOO...
HMM?
NO CLUE... SHE SAID SOMETHING LIKE "LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCING LIFE."
?
BYE-BYE!
LATER!
SEE YOU TOMORROW!
BING BONG

I...
KREE
UM...
HEY.
WELCOME HOME, SUMIRE.
I'LL FREELY ADMIT THE MOVE WAS A PRETTY SHOCKING DECISION FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME TO MAKE, BUT...
UH, H-HI.
.....
YOU'RE MOVING OUT OF THE DORM TO GO LIVE WITH A FRIEND?!
SUMIRE'S HOUSE
MY PARENTS, WELL...


SNIFF
YOU RAISED OUR LITTLE GIRL INTO SUCH A BRIGHT AND MATURE YOUNG LADY, DARLING!
DADDY'S SO PROUD OF YOU, SUMIRE!
YOUR FIRST STEP TOWARDS TRUE INDEPENDENCE!
AWW!
YOU'VE BECOME SUCH A BIG GIRL, MAKING DECISIONS BY YOURSELF!

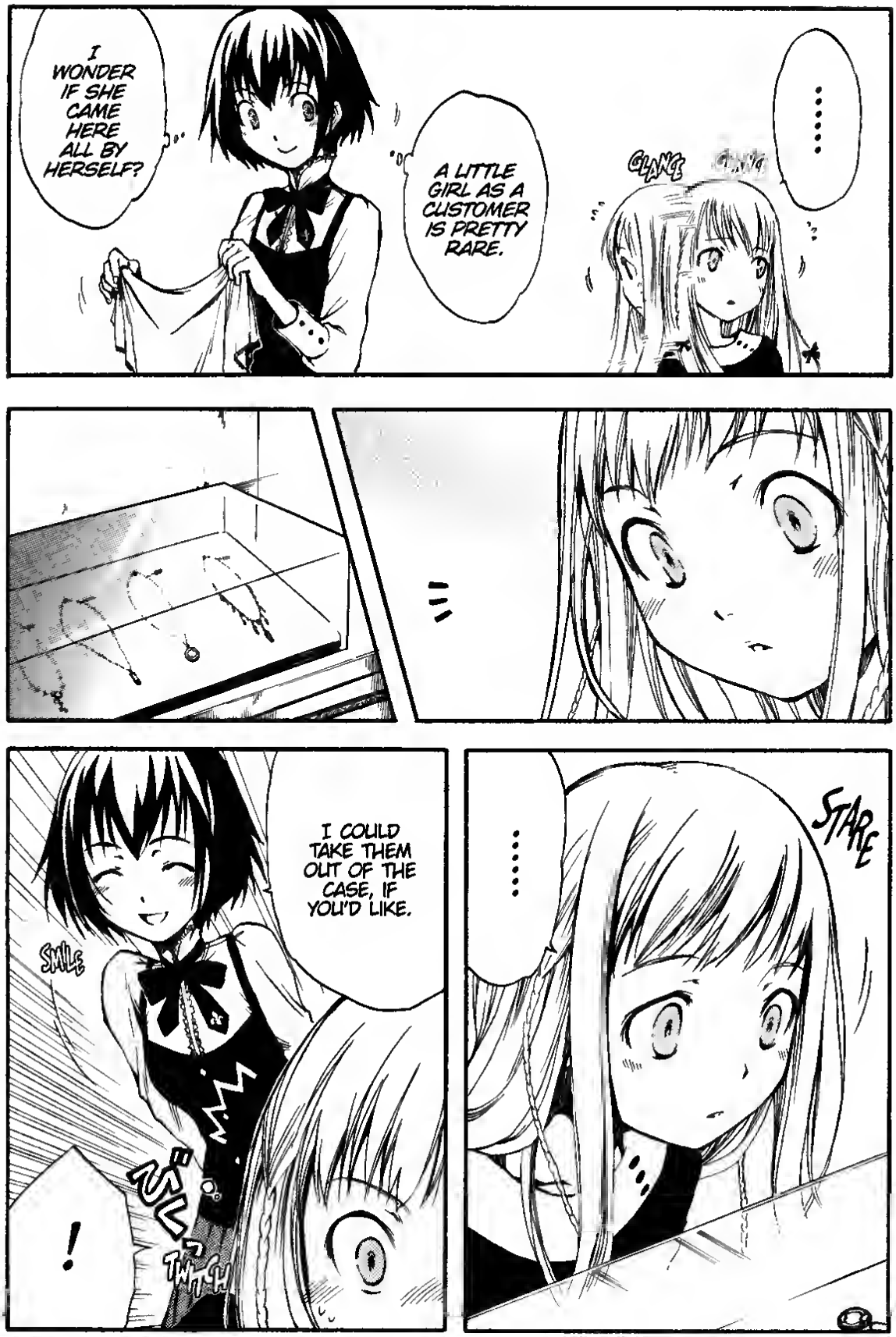



...BEFORE GIVING THEIR FULL APPROVAL. IT WAS KINDA SCARY.
PWEH!
OH GOD.
BLUSH
YOUR PARENTS ARE PRETTY EASY-GOING, SUMIRE.
THEY DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER TO HEAR THE WHOLE STORY...

SO THIS MEANS THAT I, TAKAHANA SUMIRE...

IN RETURN, LUCIA-SAN PROTECTS ME FROM ANY VIRUSES.
...AM NOW OFFICIALLY A PART OF LUCIA-SAN'S "OTHER" JOB.
I DIDN'T EXPECT IT, BUT THE FIRST FEW DAYS WERE PRETTY PEACEFUL.
BUT MOSTLY, I JUST HELP OUT AT THE CLOTHING SHOP.
HURRY UP AND GET CHANGED, OKAY?
OH, SURE!
.....
TWITCH
KREEE

WELCOME!
TMPA
TMPA
OH...!
YES, WELCOME TO VENUS VANGARD!
UM... HI.
OPEN
WOW, SHE'S SO CUTE!
HEE HEE

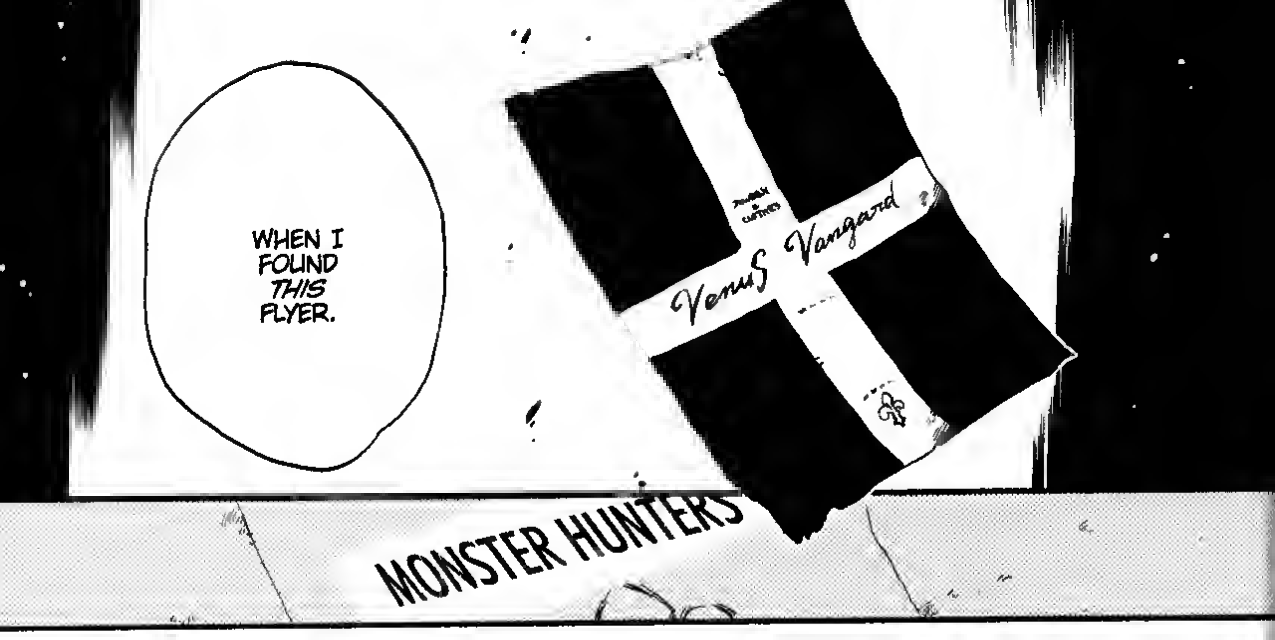

I WONDER IF SHE CAME HERE ALL BY HERSELF?
A LITTLE GIRL AS A CUSTOMER IS PRETTY RARE.
CLANG
CLANG
.....
STARE
.....
I COULD TAKE THEM OUT OF THE CASE, IF YOU'D LIKE.
SMILE
MMM...
ぶら～
TWITCH
!

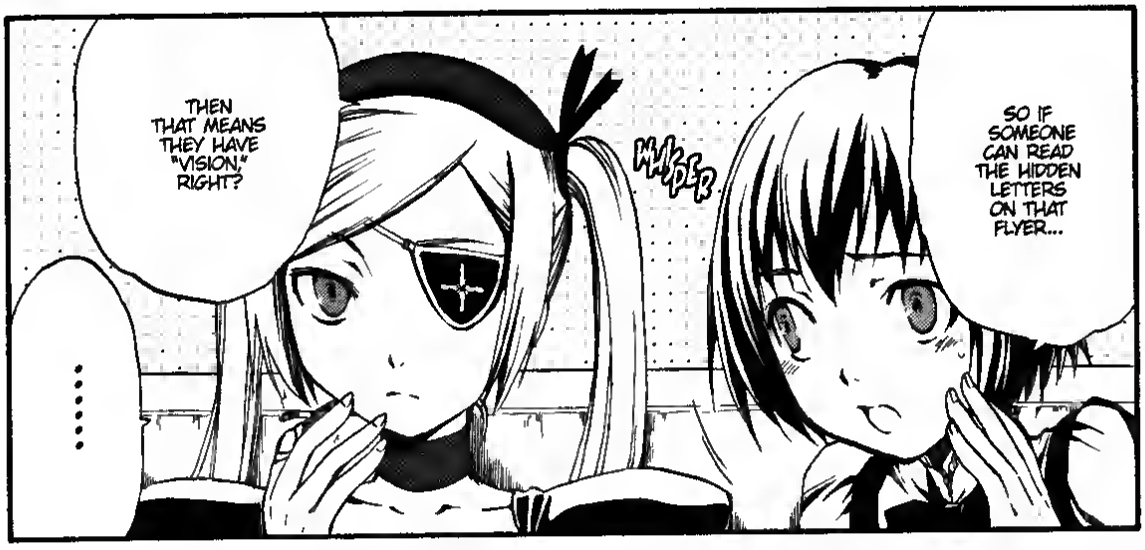
?
FWP
N-NO...! THAT'S NOT IT! I... UM...
EEP!
I...
TPP
WE KNOW.
HUH...?
IT'S OKAY. YOU'RE AT THE RIGHT PLACE.
NOW, CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED?
?!

I FOUND THIS PIECE OF PAPER...
RUSTLE
I... UM...
YOU HAVE TO SAVE YOU-CHAN!!
...IS A CLIENT?!
THE FLYER?!
THEN, THAT MEANS THIS LITTLE GIRL...
PLEASE, HELP HIM!

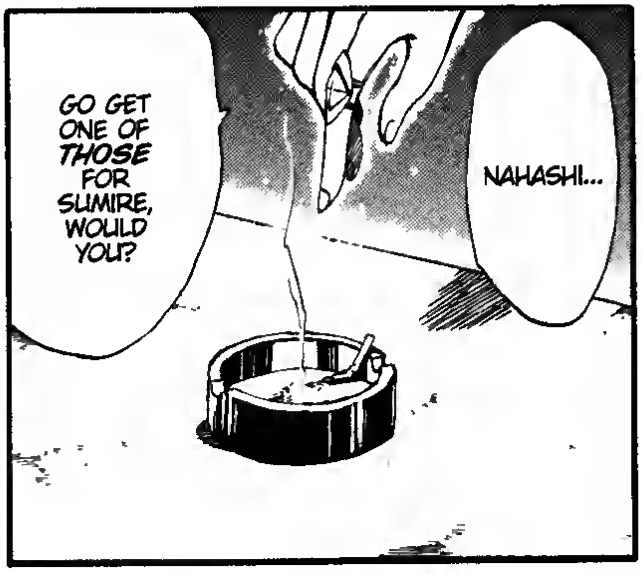
CLOSED
"TSUKUYO-CHAN" WAS IT? OKAY...
SO YOU'RE SAYING YOUR TWIN BROTHER, YOUJI-KUN...
...IS BEING STALKED BY SOME "MONSTER," RIGHT? ABOUT WHEN DID THIS START?
I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER EXACTLY WHEN...
I THINK IT WAS ABOUT A WEEK AGO.
ONE DAY...
...HE JUST DIDN'T COME OUT OF HIS ROOM.

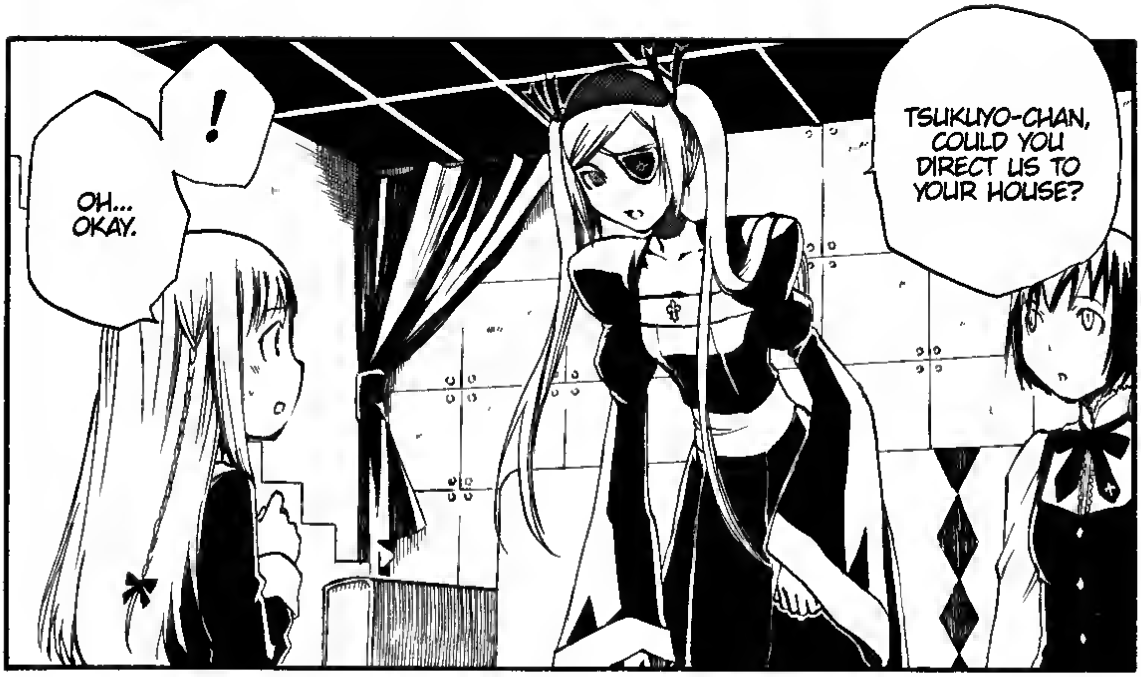
YOU-CHAN, WHAT'S WRONG?!
YOU-CHAN, LET ME IN! I--
STAY AWAY, TSUKUYO! PLEASE!!
IT'S LIKE HE'S AFRAID OF SOMETHING.
MUMBLE
STAY AWAY... MONSTER...
MUMBLE
YOU-CHAN ISN'T THE ONLY ONE ACTING WEIRD.
PAPA? PAPA!
TP TP TP
MAMA AND PAPA WON'T TALK TO ME ANYMORE. THEY JUST IGNORE ME!
WHAT'S GOING ON...? WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO ME?
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
I WAS IN THE PARK, CRYING...

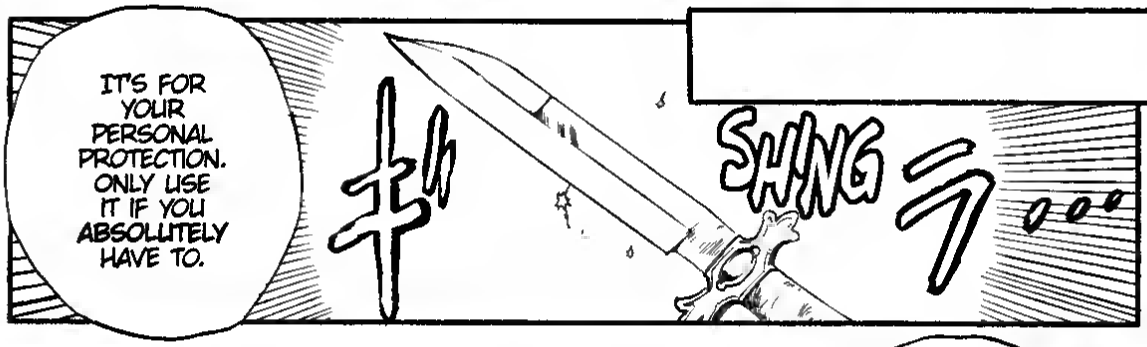

WHEN I FOUND THIS FLYER.
Venus Vanguard
MONSTER HUNTERS


THEN THAT MEANS THEY HAVE "VISION," RIGHT?
.....
WHISPER
SO IF SOMEONE CAN READ THE HIDDEN LETTERS ON THAT FLYER...

OF COURSE.
AND THEN GO BRING THE CAR AROUND...


GO GET ONE OF THOSE FOR SUMIRE, WOULD YOU?
NAHASHI...

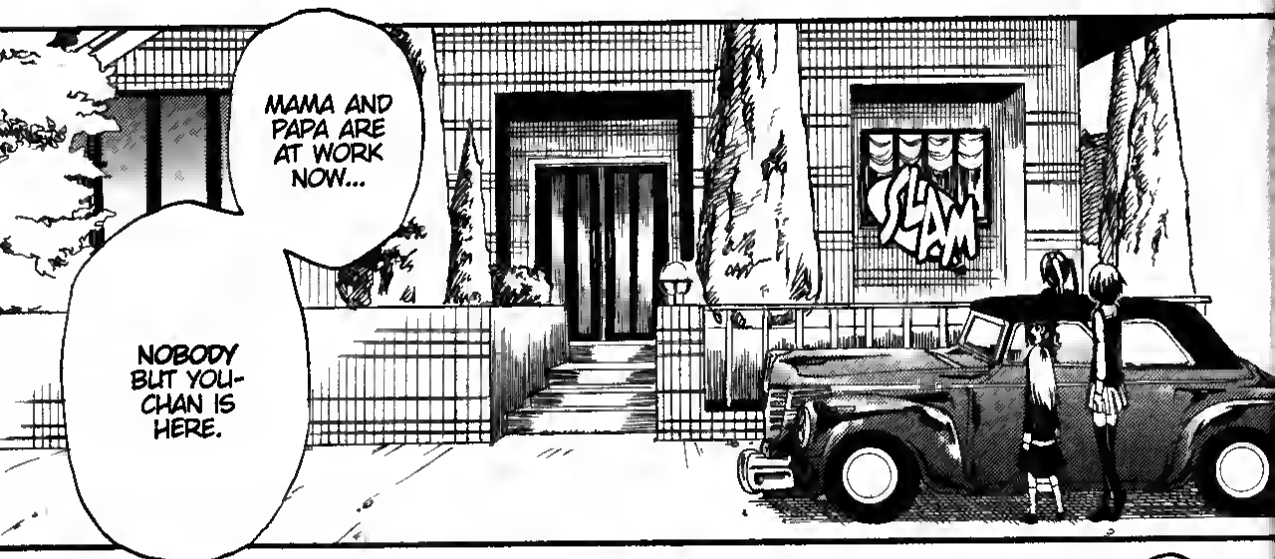

TSUKUYO-CHAN, COULD YOU DIRECT US TO YOUR HOUSE?
!
OH... OKAY.


IT'S FOR YOUR PERSONAL PROTECTION. ONLY USE IT IF YOU ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO.
SHING

YIKES!
OH, AND WATCH WHAT I DO. SEE IF YOU CAN LEARN SOMETHING.
UNTIL YOU CAN, DO KEEP THAT KNIFE HANDY, WILL YOU?

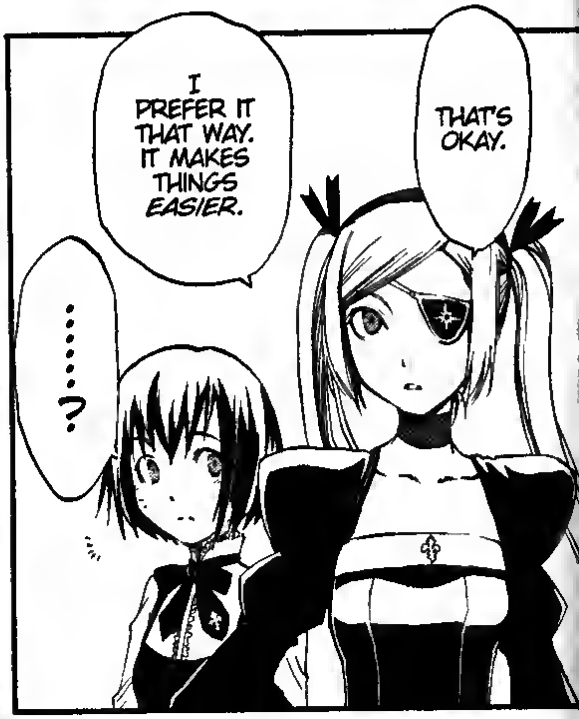
YOU STILL CAN'T REALLY CONTROL THE POWERS YOU MANIFESTED BACK AT THE DORM.

IT'S THE HOUSE WITH THE RED ROOF, UP ON TOP OF THAT HILL...
THERE!

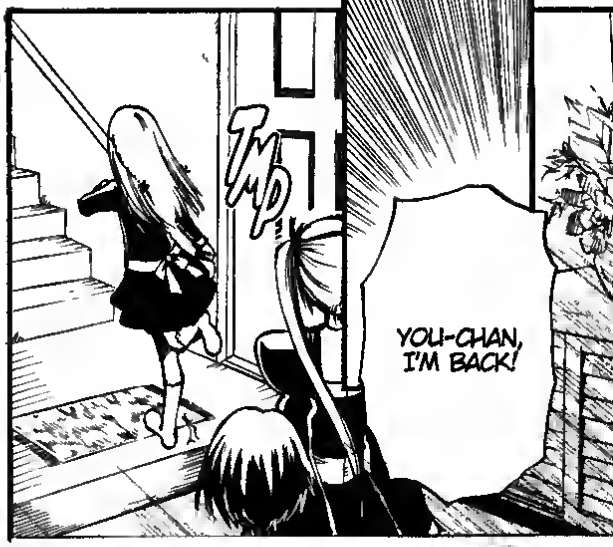

MAMA AND PAPA ARE AT WORK NOW...
NOBODY BUT YOU-CHAN IS HERE.
SLAM SLAM

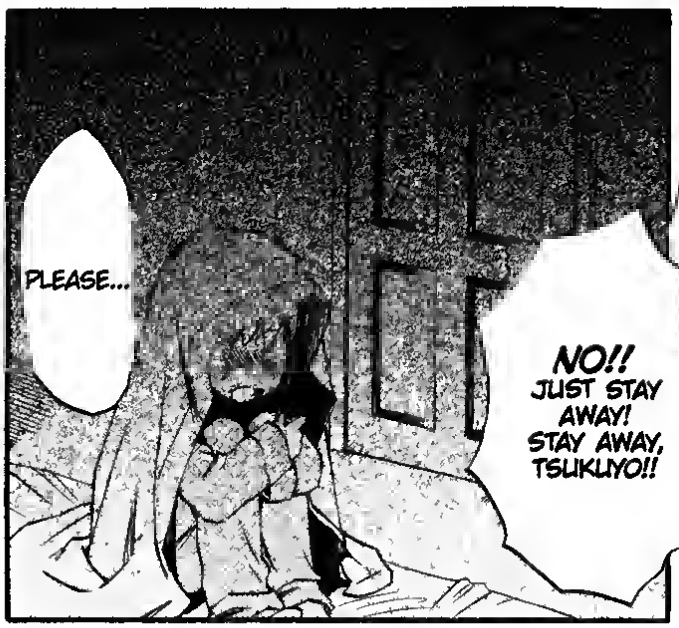
HMM?
WAIT... I THINK I'VE SEEN THIS PLACE SOMEWHERE BEFORE.

NAHASHI, THERE'S NO NEED TO WAIT. FEEL FREE TO GO HOME IF YOU LIKE.
VERY WELL.

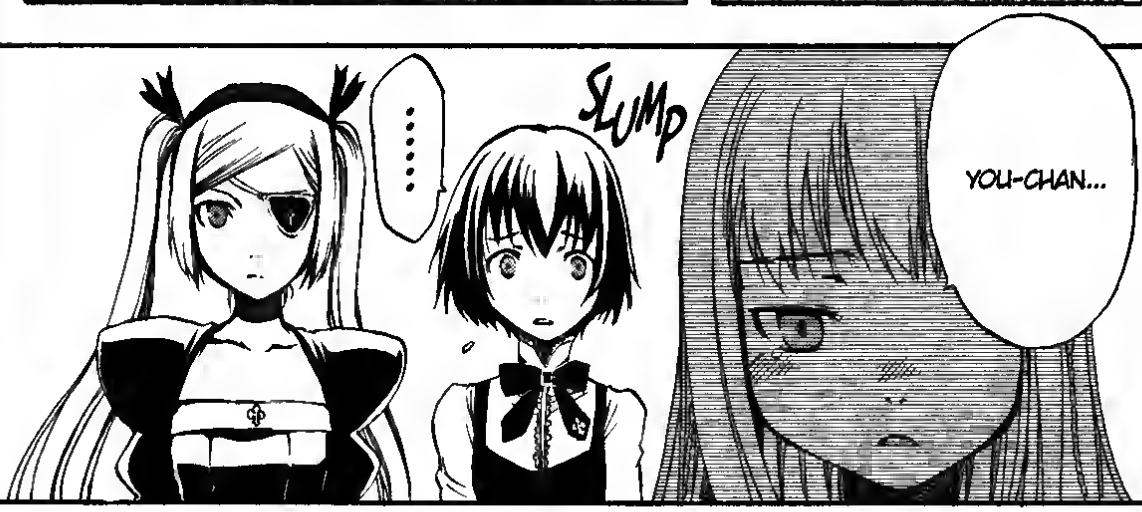

I PREFER IT THAT WAY. IT MAKES THINGS EASIER.
THAT'S OKAY.
.....?

YOU-CHA--
STAY AWAY!!


TMP
YOU-CHAN, I'M BACK!


PLEASE...
NO!! JUST STAY AWAY! STAY AWAY, TSUKUYO!!

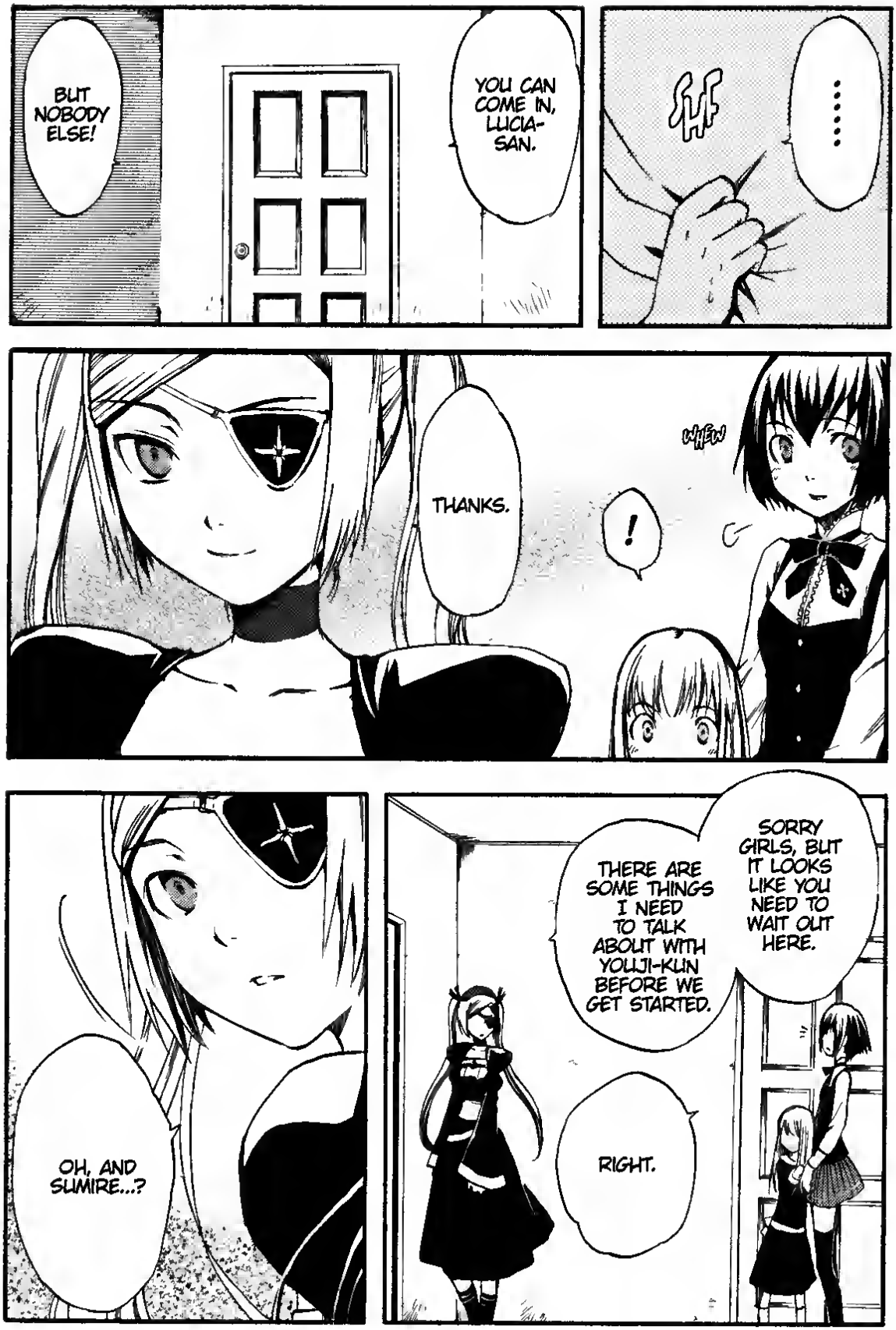
BUT, YOU-CHAN... I'VE BROUGHT SOME GUESTS FOR YOU!
THEY SAID THEY CAN SAVE YOU!


.....
SLUMP
YOU-CHAN...

UM... TSUKUYO-CHAN...
EVERY-THING'S GOING TO BE FINE. SO DON'T BE SAD, OKA--
YEAH...
!!
SHVR
SHVR
THAT HAD TO BE... THE VIRUS!!
BTHMP
IT'S SOMEWHERE INSIDE THIS HOUSE...! IF ONLY I COULD TELL WHERE!
BTHMP
HUG
THERE! I SENSED IT!
BUT WHERE IS IT?!
?
WHRL
?
TSUKUYO -CHAN?
IS IT OKAY IF I HOLD ON TO YOU?

OH YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
SHE HAS "VISION" TOO. THAT MEANS THE VIRUS MIGHT COME AFTER HER AS WELL.
NOK NOK
PROTECTING HER IS MY JOB NOW.
I NEED TO DO IT RIGHT...
YOUJI-KUN, OPEN UP.
!
WHO'RE YOU?!
TWITCH
MY NAME IS LUCIA.

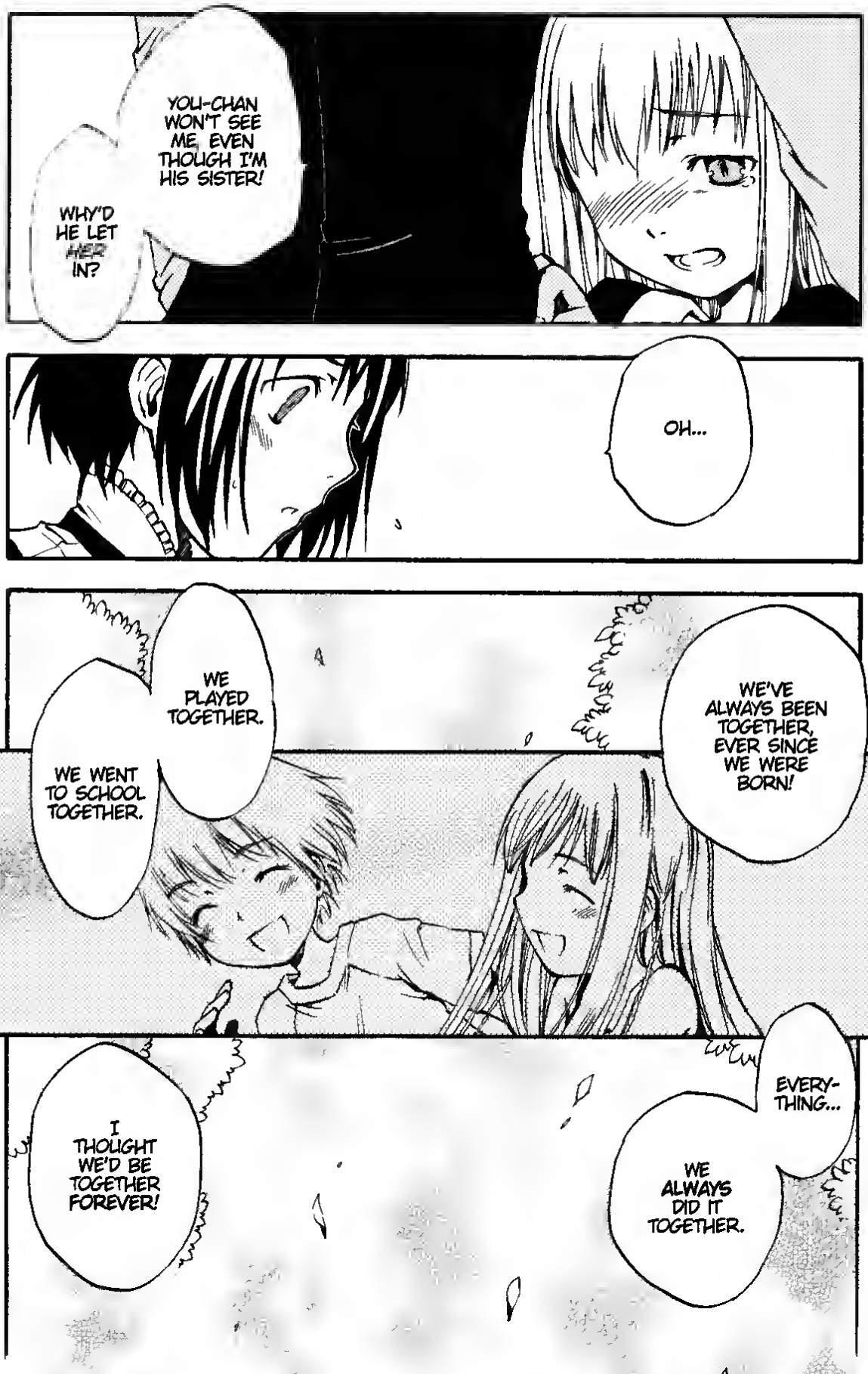
IT'S MY JOB TO DEAL WITH THE "THING" THAT'S SCARING YOU SO MUCH.
I CAN SAVE YOU FROM IT.
THE "THING" THAT'S SCARING ME...?
.....!
THAT WON'T WORK, LUCIA-NEECHAN!
YOU-CHAN IS SUPER SHY. HE WON'T LET YOU IN.
I SEE THEM TOO, YOUJI-KUN.
I KNOW WHAT IT REALLY IS.


BUT NOBODY ELSE!
YOU CAN COME IN, LUCIA-SAN.
.....
HF
THANKS.
!
WHEW
OH, AND SUMIRE...?
THERE ARE SOME THINGS I NEED TO TALK ABOUT WITH YOUJI-KUN BEFORE WE GET STARTED.
SORRY GIRLS, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU NEED TO WAIT OUT HERE.
RIGHT.

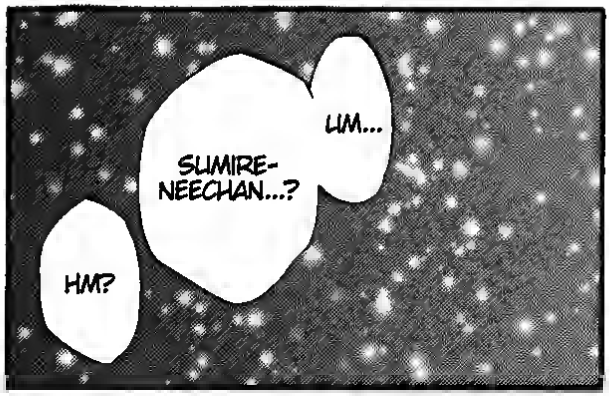
WHATEVER YOU DO, STAY PUT. DON'T MOVE AT ALL, GOT IT?
AND KEEP AN EYE ON HER.
!
NOD
R-RIGHT. GOT IT.
OKAY...
KLIK
KREE

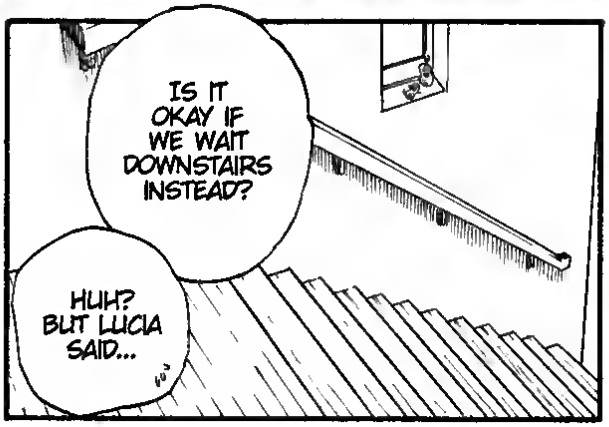
SO YOU'RE YOUJI-KUN, RIGHT?
SHUFFLE
BTAM
Y-YES, MA'AM.
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M LUCIA.
NOW, WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME, SO...

I'M GOING TO ASK YOU FLAT-OUT, OKAY? THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED YOU TO CONFIRM FOR ME.
GULP
.....
?
WHAT'S WRONG?
.....


YOU-CHAN WON'T SEE ME, EVEN THOUGH I'M HIS SISTER!
WHY'D HE LET HER IN?
OH...
WE PLAYED TOGETHER.
WE WENT TO SCHOOL TOGETHER.
WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN TOGETHER, EVER SINCE WE WERE BORN!
I THOUGHT WE'D BE TOGETHER FOREVER!
WE ALWAYS DID IT TOGETHER.
EVERY-THING...

BUT NOW YOU-CHAN WON'T EVEN LOOK AT ME!
I THINK... I THINK HE HATES ME NOW!
WAH
N-NO WAY!
HE DOESN'T HATE YOU, TSUKIYO-CHAN!
I MEAN, YOU HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING BAD AT ALL!
ALL OF THIS IS THE VIRUS'S FAULT.
YOU'RE TRYING AS HARD AS YOU CAN TO SAVE HIM FROM IT, RIGHT?
YOUR BROTHER COULDN'T *POSSIBLY* HATE YOU...


LIM...
SUMIRE-NEECHAN...?
HM?


IS IT OKAY IF WE WAIT DOWNSTAIRS INSTEAD?
HUH? BUT LUCIA SAID...

WE HAVE SOME REALLY YUMMY CANDY DOWNSTAIRS. I'LL GIVE YOU SOME TOO!
AND... LIM... I'M GETTING KINDA HUNGRY.
I KNOW. BUT SHE'S TAKING A LONG TIME.
.....

NOT WHEN YOU'RE DOING SO MUCH FOR HIS SAKE...
RIGHT?
O-OH... RIGHT...

DOWNSTAIRS IT IS, THEN!
ALL RIGHT!
YAY!
CLUNK
I SEE.
GLOW

SO ARE YOU READY NOW?
.....
YES...

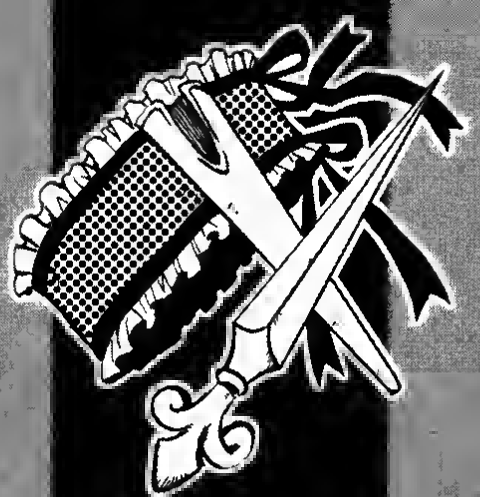
LET'S GO, THEN.
THE SOONER THIS IS DONE, THE BETTER.
SHF
OKAY.
AT LEAST NOW, BEFORE--
AHA, THERE IT IS...

THIS WAS THE ARTICLE I HAD SEEN.
……!!
THEN THIS MEANS...!
!!

SUMIRE, YOU MORON...
KIK
I TOLD YOU TO STAY PUT!!

Jewelry
and
clothes

Venus Vangard



HUH...?
BTAM
KLIK
UM, TSUKUYO-CHAN? THIS... ISN'T YOUR LIVING ROOM, IS IT?
HEE HEE
NOPE! I CHANGED MY MIND...
BECAUSE I FOUND SOMETHING THAT'S GOING TO BE MUCH MORE YUMMY THAN CANDY!

Piece 05:
MISUNDERSTANDINGS, UNDERSTANDINGS.

ON PAPER:
YOUNG GIRL DISAPPEARS
CONTINUING MISSING PERSON EPIDEMIC
女児行方不明
不明者相次ぐ
I KNEW THAT HOUSE WAS FAMILIAR.
IT'S DESCRIBED IN THIS ARTICLE, ALONG WITH THE GIRL.
LUCIA, YOU KNEW...!
--AKE... --T...
NO WAY...
TSUKUYO-CHAN...?
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF

THUMP
YES?
OH GOD...
T... AKE... I... T....
THIS FEELING...
BTKMD
DON'T TELL ME...
BTKMD
IT'S THE SAME AS BEFORE?!
BTKMD

WHAT'S WRONG, SUMIRE-NEECHAN?
WHY ARE YOU STARING AT ME? IS THERE SOMETHING ON MY FACE?
SHE'S THE VIRUS?!
I DIDN'T LIKE STANDING AT THE TOP OF THE STEPS. SOMETHING UP THERE WAS MAKING ME FEEL ALL YUCKY.
I THINK LUCIA-NEECHAN DID SOMETHING.
BUT... WHY? HOW?
BMP
OH WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER. I'M GLAD YOU CAME DOWN HERE WITH ME, SUMIRE-NEECHAN.

LUCIA MUST'VE KNOWN WHAT TSUKUYO-CHAN WAS FROM THE START! THAT'S WHY SHE TOLD ME TO "STAY PUT"!
TSUKUYO-CHAN, WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS...?
LUCIA DID SOMETHING...? SHE MADE A KEKKAI!!
AND SHE SAID TO "KEEP AN EYE ON HER," NOT FOR TSUKUYO-CHAN'S SAKE, BUT FOR MINE!!
SO YUMMY, I ALMOST TRIED TO EAT YOU RIGHT THERE.
BECAUSE YOU SMELL REALLY, REALLY YUMMY...
KRK
MUCH BETTER THAN YOU-CHAN.
I COULDN'T HELP IT. YOU SMELL MUCH...

TAKE IT...!
!!!
KYAAAAAAAA!!
KRRAAAK
NO...!

OH GOD, I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS.
STOP IT, TSUKUYO-CHAN! STAY BACK!!
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
WISH
...HOLD A KNIFE AGAINST A LITTLE GIRL!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I HAVE TO...
...?!
HEE HEE HEE... WHAT'S THAT? A TOY?
H..
FW

SHLICK
YOU WANT TO PLAY WITH ME?
FSH
AAAAH!
THK
THK
THK
THK
THK
SQUEEZE
HFF
GHARL
WAIT... WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?
HFF

WHY DO YOU LOOK SO SCARED WHEN YOU LOOK AT ME?
SUMIRE-NEECHAN...
...
WHY...?
I CAN'T JUST SIT HERE. I NEED TO FIGHT BACK.
IF I DON'T, I COULD BE IN REAL TROUBLE. I NEED TO...
SHICK
DO YOU HATE ME TOO?!
BUT I CAN'T!!

YOU DO. YOU... PAPA... MAMA... LUCIA-NEESAN...
EVEN YOU-CHAN...
EVERYBODY HATES ME!!
!!!
BAM

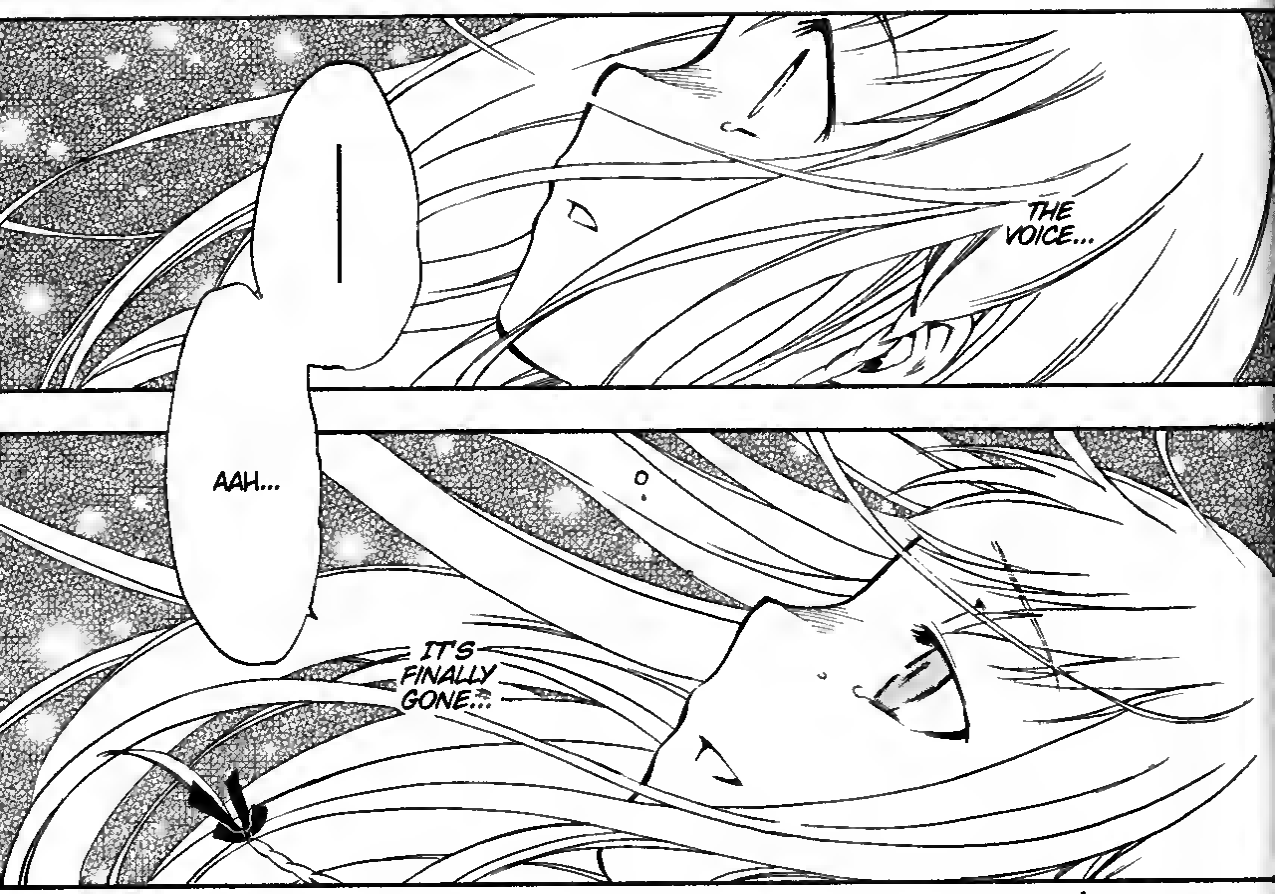
LUCIA-SAN!!

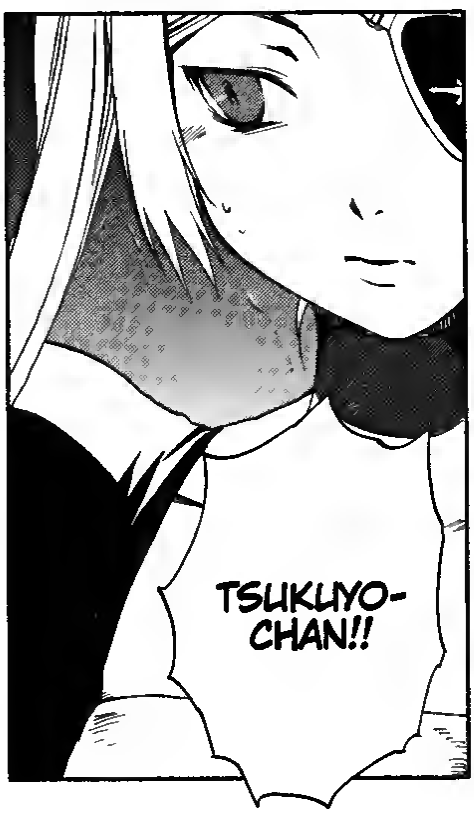
.....
YOU-
CHA--
--KE IT!
TSUKU...
YO...?
--MPH!
BATHUMP
TAKE IT!!
!!
LOOK OUT!!
THK
RAAAAAAAAH!!

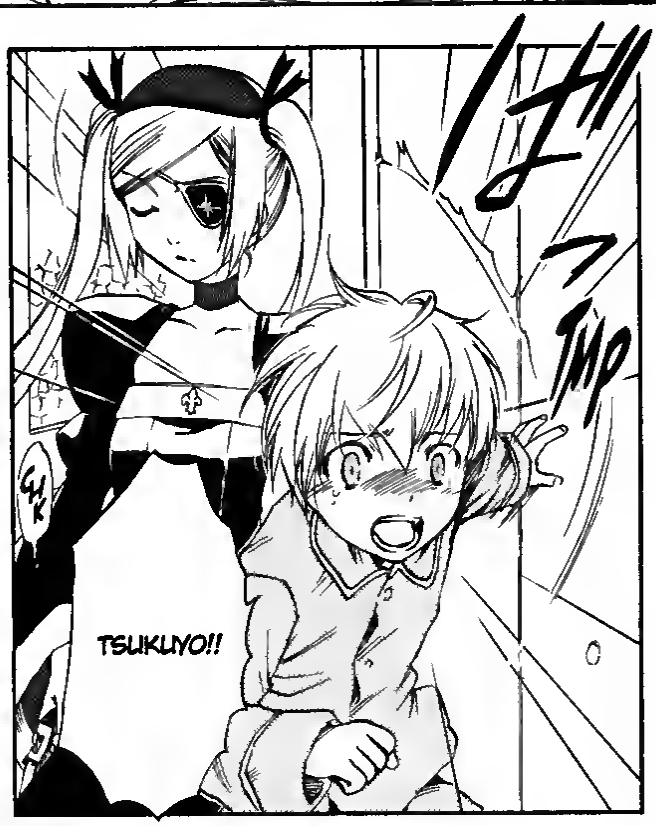
HUH?
?!
PATTER
NO...

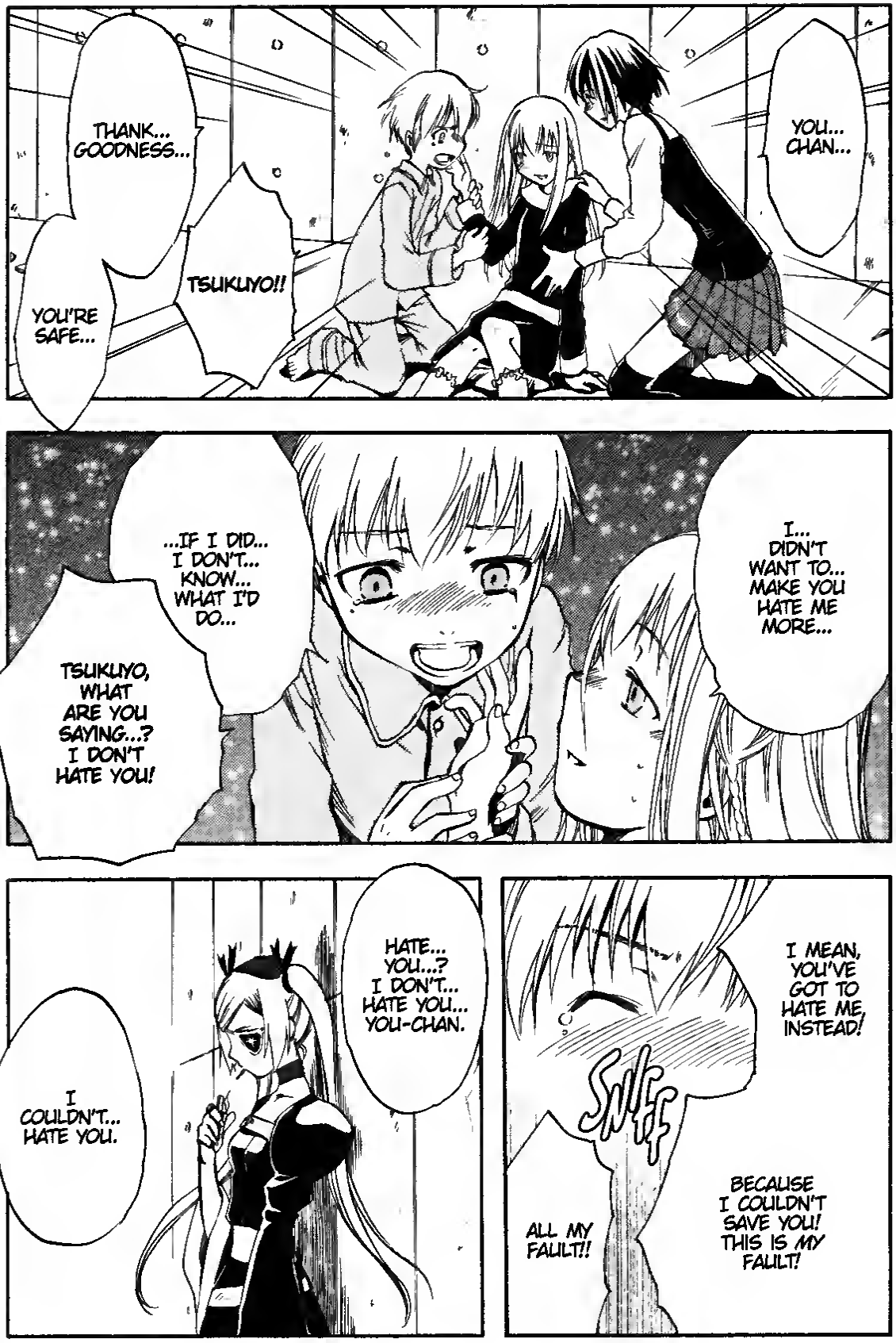
YOU-CHAN...
RUN...
NO...
STOP IT...
TAKE IT!!
TWITCH
TWITCH
TAKE IT!
PLEASE! HURRY!
I CAN'T... HOLD...
.....!!
WINCE
TSUKUYO, I'M SORRY!!
IF I'D BEEN BRAVER BACK THEN, MAYBE--
SWISH
LUCIA-NEESAN, HELP ME!!!

BLAM


THE VOICE...
AAH...
IT'S FINALLY GONE...


TSUKIYO-CHAN!!


HH
THP
GLK
TSUKIYO!!


YOU... CHAN...
TSUKUYO!!
THANK... GOODNESS...
YOU'RE SAFE...
I... DIDN'T WANT TO... MAKE YOU HATE ME MORE...
...IF I DID... I DON'T... KNOW... WHAT I'D DO...
TSUKUYO, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...? I DON'T HATE YOU!
I MEAN, YOU'VE GOT TO HATE ME, INSTEAD!
SNIFF
BECAUSE I COULDN'T SAVE YOU! THIS IS MY FAULT!
ALL MY FAULT!!
HATE... YOU...? I DON'T... HATE YOU... YOU-CHAN.
I COULDN'T... HATE YOU.

SMILE
I... LOVE YOU TOO MUCH... TO... HATE YOU...
NO...
I LOVE YOU TOO, TSUKUYO...
WE ALL LOVE YOU!!
ME AND MAMA AND PAPA...

.....
REALLY...?
HEE HEE
I'M... GLA--
FUZZ
!!
HH
TSUKUYO...?
FSSSSSSHHH!!

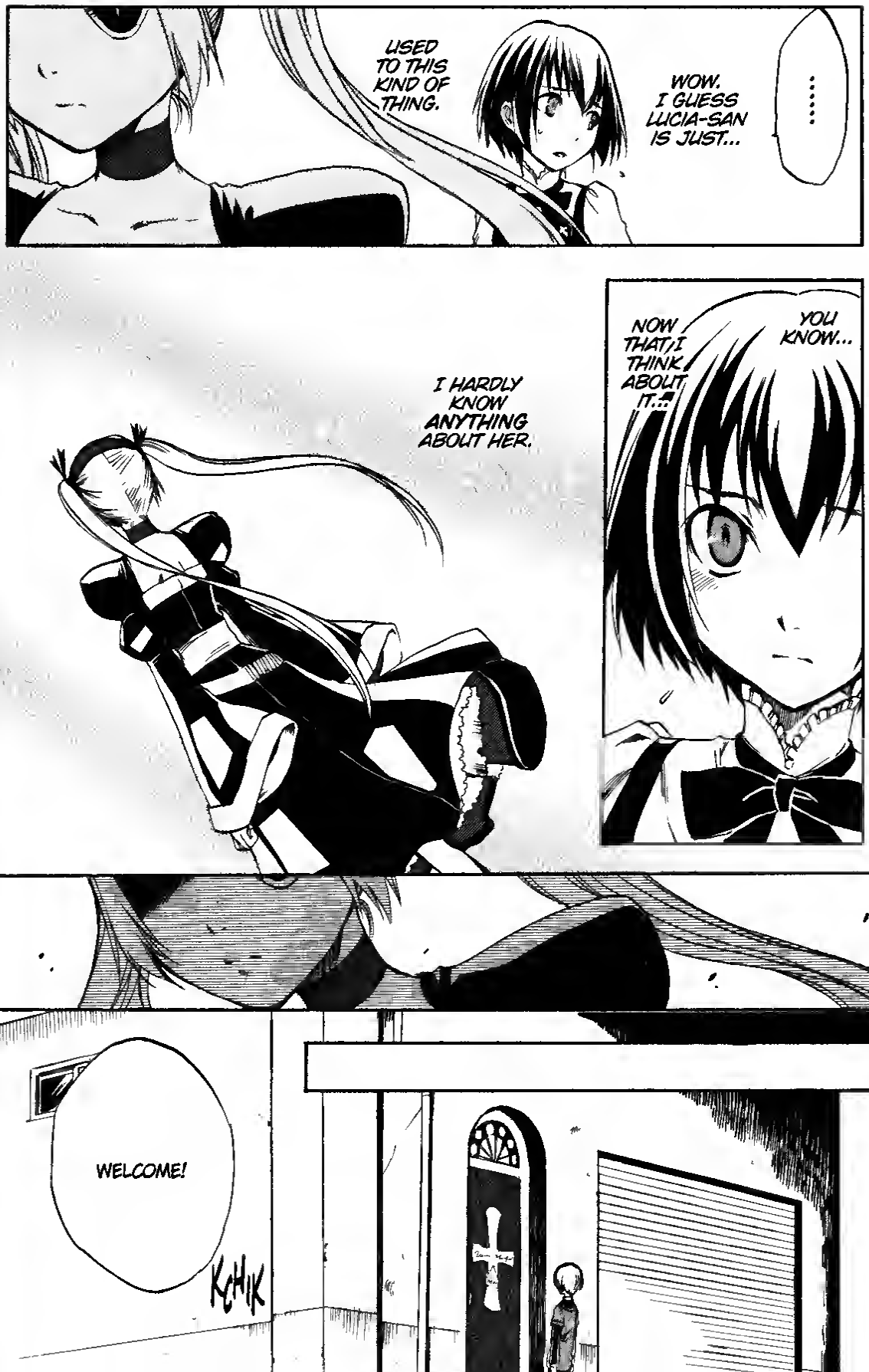
TSUKUYO...
A WEEK AGO...

WHEN THIS MONSTER SHOWS UP FROM OUT OF NOWHERE.
WE WERE PLAYING IN THE PARK, LIKE WE ALWAYS DID...
THE NEXT THING I REMEMBER...
IS TSUKIYO LAYING ON THE GROUND. SHE WASN'T MOVING AT ALL.
I WAS SO SCARED, I JUST RAN BACK HOME...
AND HID IN MY ROOM.

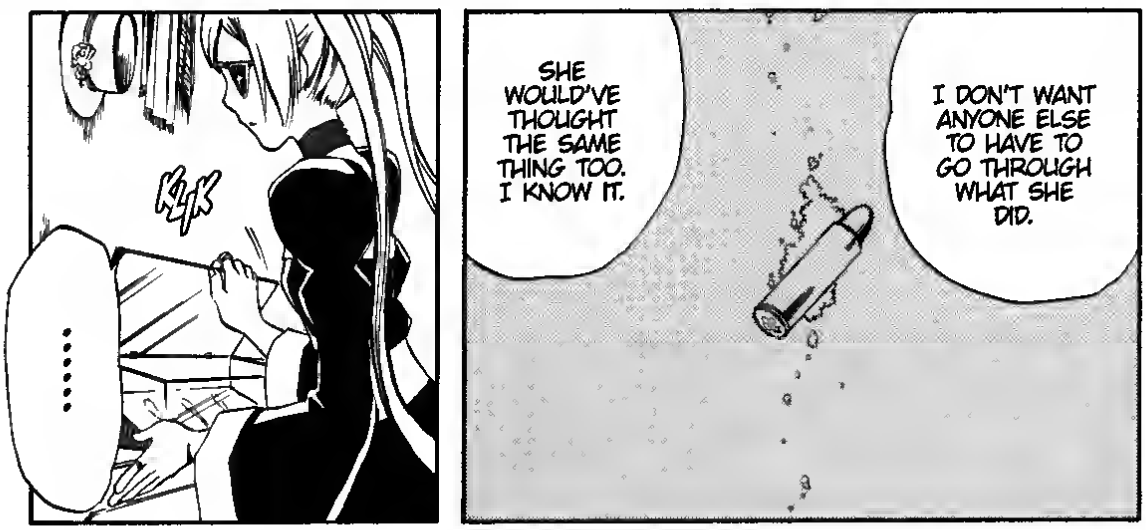
KCHIK
YOU-CHAN, I'M HOME!
?!
UH?
NOT LONG AFTER THAT...
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU CAME HOME WITHOUT ME!
I KNEW IT RIGHT AWAY.
MEANIE!
EEK...!
HUH? HEY! YOU-CHAN?!
BUT IT LOOKED LIKE TSUKUYO HADN'T FIGURED THAT OUT HERSELF, THOUGH.
I KNEW SHE WASN'T THE TSUKUYO I KNEW.
STAY OUT!!
SLAM!!!
I...
I COULDN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT HOW I COULDN'T SAVE HER AT THE PARK...
HOW I JUST RAN AWAY AND LEFT HER THERE.
BUT I KNEW SHE GOT TURNED INTO A MONSTER AND SHE WAS GOING TO TRY TO EAT ME!
I WAS JUST... TOO SCARED.

IF ONLY I'D BEEN A LITTLE BIT BRAVER...
IF I HADN'T RUN AWAY, I COULD'VE STAYED AND--
DON'T BE STUPID.
NORMALLY, HUMANS KILLED BY VIRUSES IMMEDIATELY TURN INTO VIRUSES THEM-SELVES.
ANY SENSE OF "HUMANITY" OR "SELF" VANISHES IN AN INSTANT, AND THEY GO WILD, LIKE ANY OTHER VIRUS.
BUT YOUR SISTER WAS DIFFERENT.
ARE YOU TRYING TO TAKE YOUR SISTER'S KINDNESS AND TURN THAT INTO DUST TOO?
TWITCH
!
SHE'D GO STRAIGHT AFTER YOU.
SHE MUST'VE REALIZED THAT ONCE SHE COMPLETELY CHANGED...
TO HER, YOU WERE MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANYTHING ELSE, SO SHE TRIED TO KEEP THE PART OF HER THAT WAS TURNING INTO A VIRUS FROM TAKING OVER.
SHE COULDN'T STAND THE THOUGHT OF YOU BEING HURT, AND SHE WAS WILLING TO DO ANYTHING TO SEE THAT YOU WOULDN'T BE.

HER PARENTS...
SHE THOUGHT THEY WERE IGNORING HER... BUT THEY WEREN'T.
SHE HAD BEEN TURNED INTO SOMETHING THAT NORMAL PEOPLE CAN'T SENSE.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN THAT HAPPEN.
THEN SHE CAME TO OUR SHOP.
ANY OVERT MEMORIES SHE'D HAD OF BEING ATTACKED BY THE VIRUS WERE GONE.
HOWEVER, I THINK THAT ON A SUBCONSCIOUS LEVEL, SHE KNEW WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO HER.
WHEN SHE TALKED TO US AT THE SHOP, HER FIRST CONCERN WAS YOU.
TSUKUYO...
YOU HAVE TO SAVE YOU-CHAN!!
HUH? B-BUT...
THE REST IS HIS PROBLEM, NOT OURS.
.....
LET'S GO, SUMIRE.


WOW. I GUESS LUCIA-SAN IS JUST...
USED TO THIS KIND OF THING.
.....
I HARDLY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HER.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
YOU KNOW...
WELCOME!
KCHIK

UM... HI...
WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
THANKS FOR LETTING US USE TSUKUYO-CHAN'S REMAINS.
IT'S BEEN A REAL HELP IN OUR RESEARCH ON BETTER ANTI-VIRAL WEAPONS.
I'M GLAD SHE'S USEFUL TO YOU.

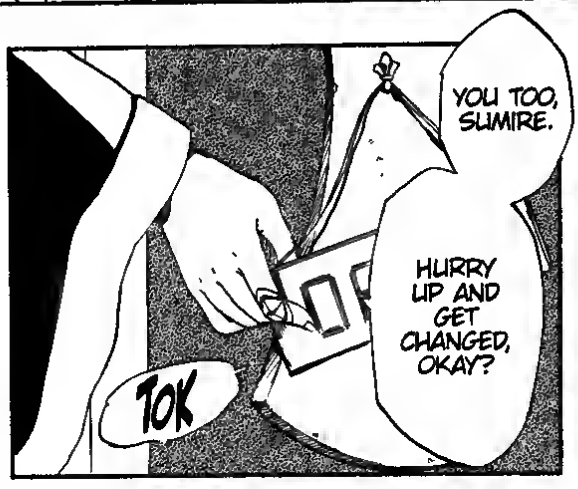

I DON'T WANT ANYONE ELSE TO HAVE TO GO THROUGH WHAT SHE DID.
SHE WOULD'VE THOUGHT THE SAME THING TOO. I KNOW IT.
.....

WHAT'S THIS...?
EXACTLY WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE--A PENDANT.
BUT... WHY GIVE IT TO ME?
WHEN TSUKIYO-CHAN WAS HERE...
SHE WENT RIGHT OVER TO THE CASE AND STARED AT IT FOR QUITE SOME TIME.
OH!
THE SUN...
AND THE MOON.

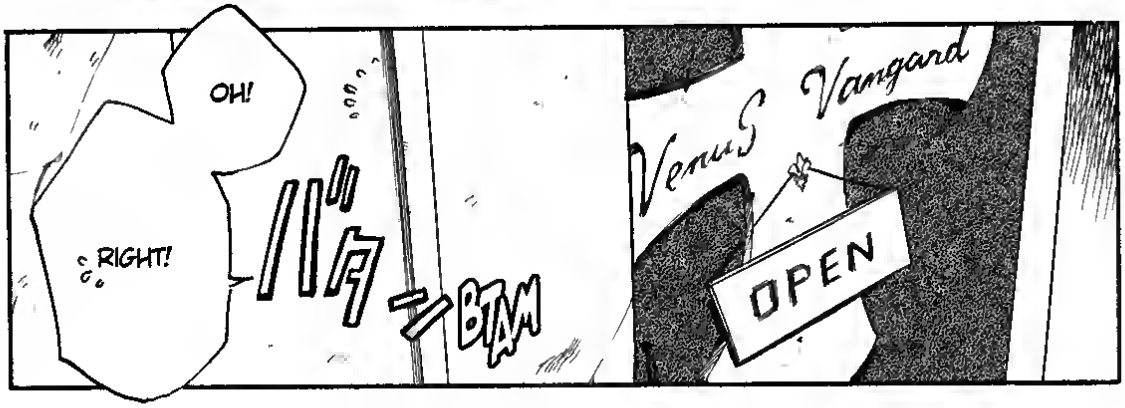
YES, "YOU" AND "TSUKU." YOUR NAMES. QUITE FITTING.
IT LOOKS LIKE...
I'M SURE SHE REALLY LIKED IT.
SO... I FIGURED IT WOULD MAKE AN APPROPRIATE PRESENT FOR THE BOTH OF YOU.
THEY'RE PLAYING TAG, CHASING EACH OTHER 'ROUND AND 'ROUND.
.....
THANK YOU...
SQUEEZE

.....
LUCIA-SAN?
EEP!
--OH, SUMIRE. WHAT IS IT?
NOTHING. IT'S JUST KINDA WEIRD TO SEE YOU OUTSIDE LIKE THIS.
IS SOMETHING WRONG?

NOPE, NOTHING'S WRONG.
I JUST WANTED SOME FRESH AIR, THAT'S ALL.
IN FACT, I'M GOING BACK IN RIGHT NOW.
Venus Vangard
CL

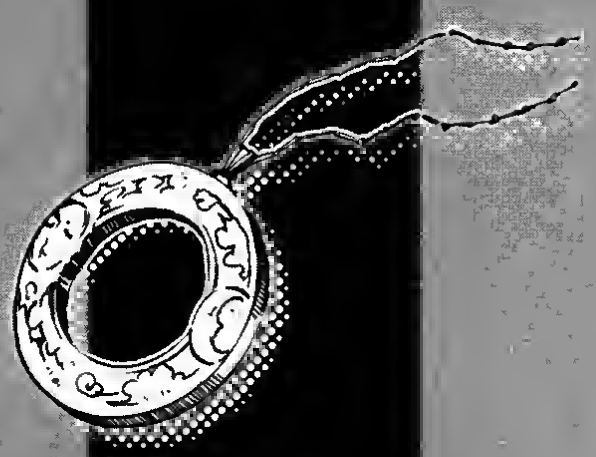

YOU TOO, SUMIRE.
HURRY UP AND GET CHANGED, OKAY?
TOK

……?


OH!
RIGHT!
バタン
BAM
Venus Vangard
OPEN

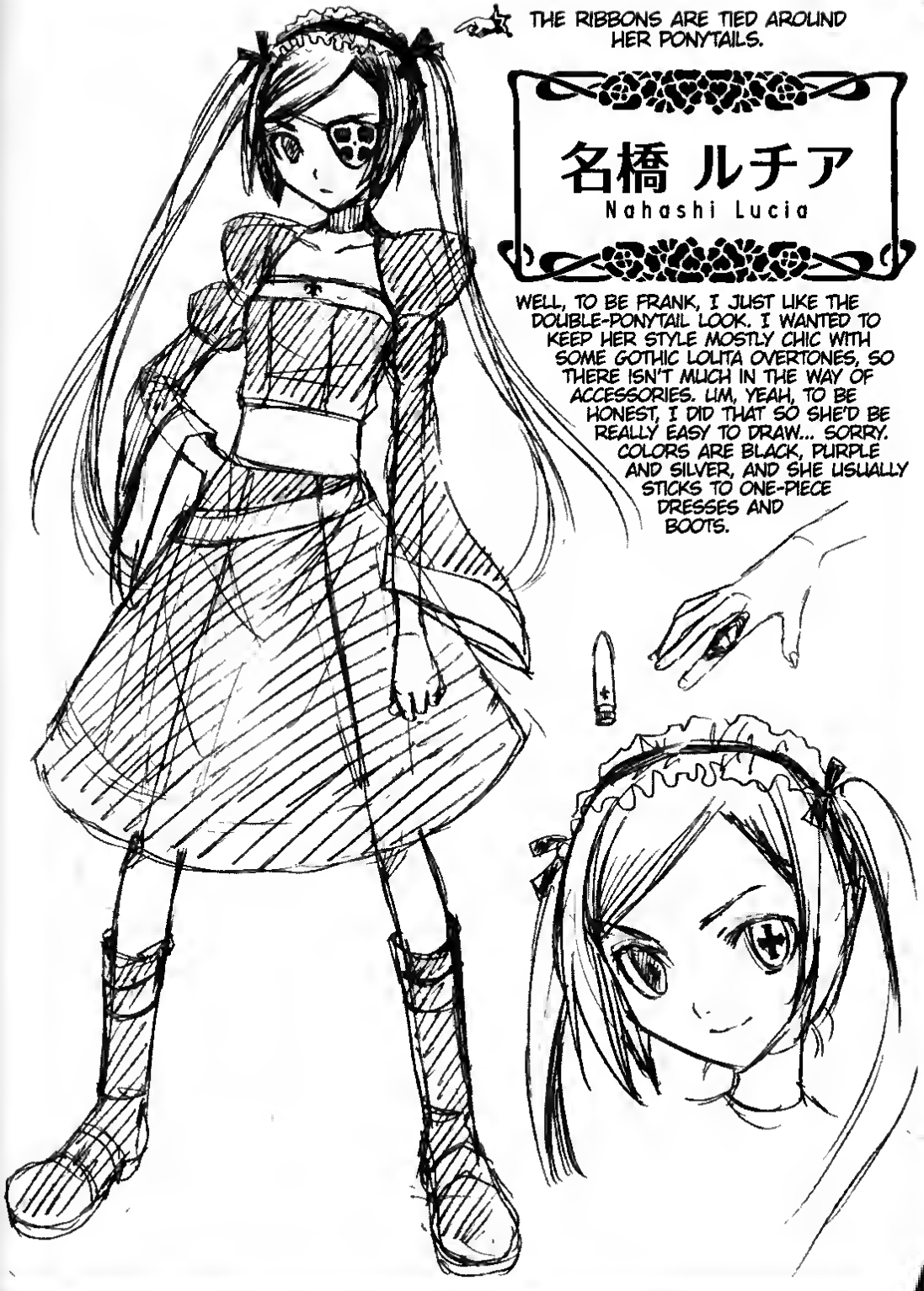
Jewelry
and
clothes

Venus Vangard



✦ piece of 「V.V.V.」 ✦
ORIGINAL CHARACTER DESIGNS

WITH COMMENTS BY SUZUMI-SENSEI



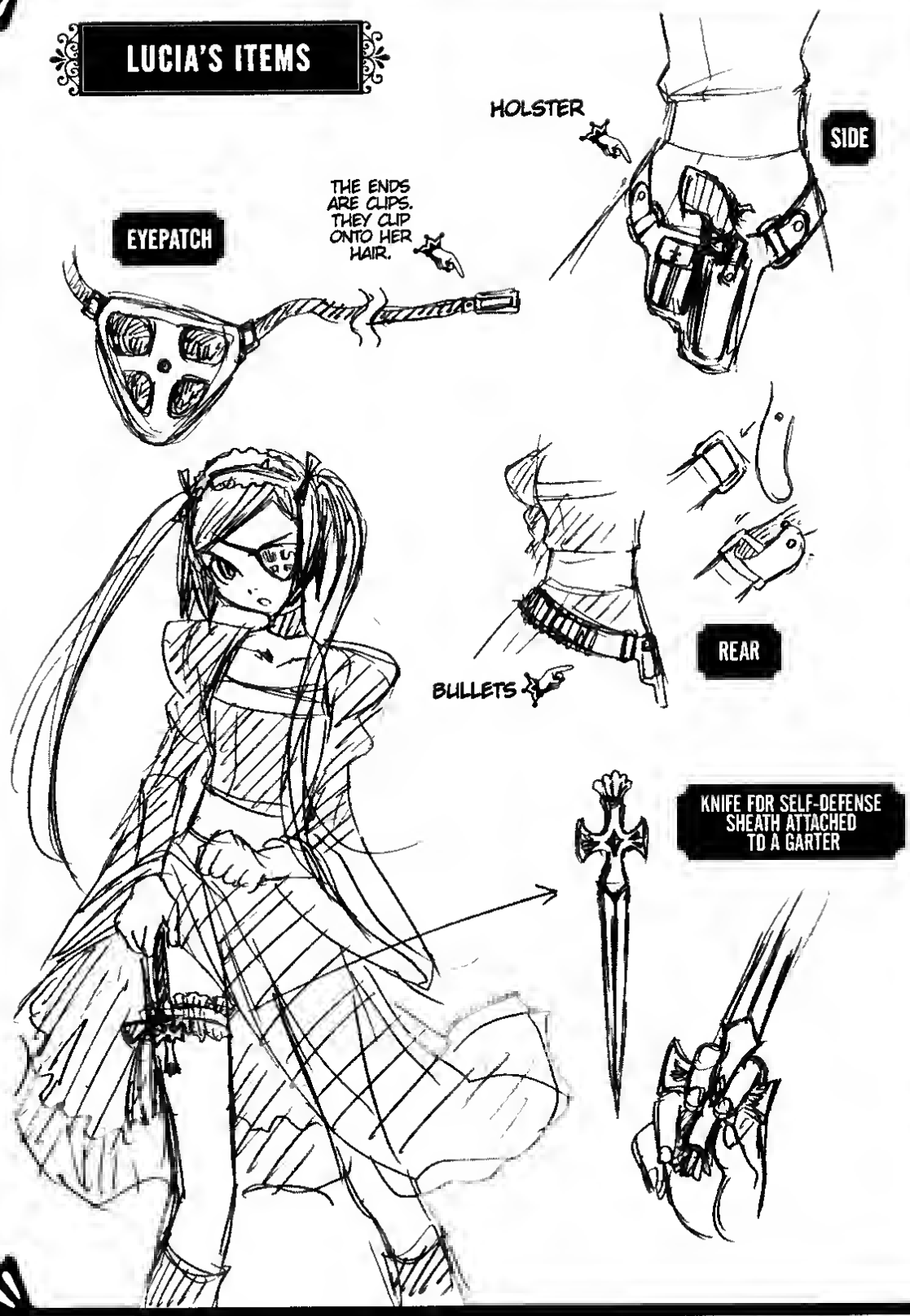
THE RIBBONS ARE TIED AROUND HER PONYTAILS.

名橋 ルチア

Nahashi Lucia

WELL, TO BE FRANK, I JUST LIKE THE DOUBLE-PONYTAIL LOOK. I WANTED TO KEEP HER STYLE MOSTLY CHIC WITH SOME GOTHIC LOLITA OVERTONES, SO THERE ISN'T MUCH IN THE WAY OF ACCESSORIES. UM, YEAH, TO BE HONEST, I DID THAT SO SHE'D BE REALLY EASY TO DRAW... SORRY. COLORS ARE BLACK, PURPLE AND SILVER, AND SHE USUALLY STICKS TO ONE-PIECE DRESSES AND BOOTS.

LUCIA'S ITEMS

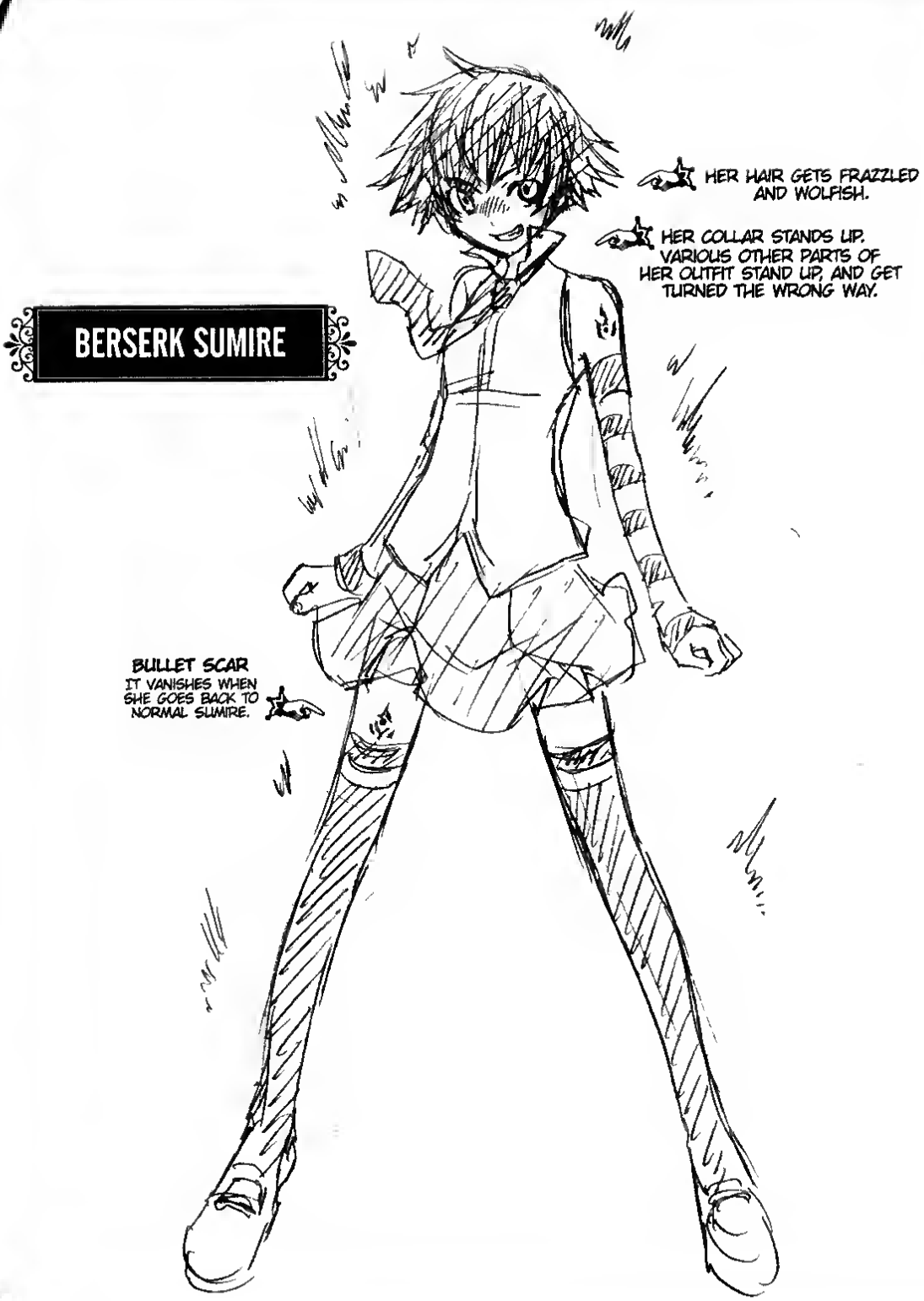


鷹花 スミレ
Takahana Sumire

THIS IS SUMIRE. SHE'S THE ONE WHO GETS DRAGGED INTO THE MIDDLE OF EVERYTHING. I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT BESIDES DOUBLE PONYTAILS, I'M ALSO PRETTY FOND OF THE SHORT-CUT HAIRSTYLE. I DECIDED TO GIVE HER A MORE CLASSICAL LOOK TOO. I WANTED TO MAKE THE GAP BETWEEN NORMAL SUMIRE AND BERSERK SUMIRE AS BIG AND EYE-POPPING AS POSSIBLE. TO PUT IT SIMPLY, SHE'S A MINISKIRT AND KNEE SOCKS KIND OF GIRL. THAT, AND SHE'S ALSO REALLY EASY TO DRAW.

UNIFORM

BERSERK SUMIRE


BERSERK SUMIRE
HER HAIR GETS FRAZZLED AND WOLFISH.
HER COLLAR STANDS UP. VARIOUS OTHER PARTS OF HER OUTFIT STAND UP, AND GET TURNED THE WRONG WAY.
BULLET SCAR
IT VANISHES WHEN SHE GOES BACK TO NORMAL SUMIRE.

名橋 総一郎
Nahashi Sauichirau

AH, NAHASHI. HE'S HERE BECAUSE I LIKE AUSTERE, MYSTERIOUS MALE CHARACTERS, AND THAT'S THAT! BESIDES, SOMEONE LIKE HIM MAKES A REALLY GOOD CONTRAST TO GIRLS LIKE LUCIA AND SUMIRE. HOWEVER, I'M NOT QUITE USED TO DRAWING HIM, SO HE'S NOT EXACTLY WHAT I WANT HIM TO BE YET. FROM HERE ON, I PLAN ON DOING MY BEST IN ALL OF HIS SCENES AND ONLY HIS SCENES!! IS THAT OKAY...?

三雲 音々
Mikumo Nene

RIKU'S OLDER SISTER, NENE IS THE BRIGHT, CHEERY AND DOMINEERING ONE STUCK IN A GROUP OF QUIETER, SHYER CHARACTERS. SHE'S SO GOOD AT DRAGGING PEOPLE ALONG WITH HER PLANS THAT SHE'S A REAL "DRAG-QUEEN!" YEAH, BAD PUN. SORRY. SHE'S ALSO SUPPOSED TO BE PRETTY DARN SCARY IF SHE EVER GETS REALLY MAD. BUT WILL THERE EVER BE A TIME WHEN SHE DOES? WHO KNOWS? STAY TUNED!

三雲 理久
Mikumo Riku

NENE'S YOUNGER BROTHER, HE'S STILL IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. A GOOD-HEARTED KID WHO HONESTLY TRIES, HE GETS PICKED ON BY HIS OLDER SISTER A LOT. HE ALSO TENDS TO GET CAUGHT UP AND DRAGGED ALONG IN THE WAKE OF HIS OLDER SISTER'S DOMINEERING PERSONALITY, JUST LIKE SUMIRE. POOR KID. I HOPE HE GETS THE CHANCE TO MAKE HIS OWN WAY FORWARD IN LIFE SOMETIME. AND WHAT ABOUT HIS FEELINGS FOR SUMIRE? WILL THEY EVER BE RETURNED? STAY TUNED!

I SEE...
SO THAT LITTLE GIRL IS LUCIA-CHAN.
KRRRR...
EXCELLENT.
EEK?!!
ルチアを襲う!?
...AND ATTACKS LUCIA...?!
A NEW FLAVOR OF DARK FANTASY!
Vênus Versus Virus
ヴィーナス ヴァーサス ヴァイアラス
第2巻
VOLUME 2 COMING OCTOBER 2007!!
WATCH FOR IT!!

季節は移り変わり
冬
THE SEASONS ARE CHANGING, FROM FALL TO WINTER...
THE SCENT...
戦術を極める人とヴァイアラスとの戦い
BUT THE BATTLE WITH VIRUSES IS JUST GETTING READY TO HEAT UP!
IT'S CALLING ME...
狂化したスミレがバーサーク
SUMIRE GOES BERSERK...
LILITH...?!
THE『Venus Versus Virus』
ONE-SHOT BEGINS ON THE NEXT PAGE!

Venus versus Virus
★ONE SHOT★

WELL... THIS IS THE PLACE...
MAYBE?
WOW... THIS HAS TO BE ONE OF THE LEAST-INVITING STORES...
BUT...
I HAVE TO GO IN.
THIS PLACE IS MY LAST HOPE!
RUSTLE
SWIPE
OPEN
THAT I'VE EVER SEEN.
おどろ
DOOOOOOM
GULP
KUHK
KREEEEEE
EEP!
PLEASE... COME IN.
KUNK
NOK
NOK

WELCOME.
I'M LUCIA, THE OWNER.
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU TODAY?
LOOKING FOR ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR? DRESSES? ACCESSORIES?

N-NO...
I... UM...
RUSTLE
I SAW THIS FLYER... AND... UM...
FWIP
HUU
VIRUS EXTERMINATORS
!
TELL ME THE DETAILS.

OH MY GOD, I'M SO SCARED!
SOMEBODY HELP ME!!
A DEMON...!
A DEMON IS AFTER ME!!
DURING THIS PAST WEEK...
I WOULD'VE THOUGHT THEY WERE JUST BEING WEIRD. BUT ALL OF THEM HAVE LOCKED THEMSELVES IN THEIR DORM ROOMS AND WON'T EVEN COME OUT TO EAT.
SIX OF MY CLASSMATES SUDDENLY STARTED BABBLING ABOUT THAT SORT OF THING.
I FOUND THIS FLYER... AND... WELL... CAME HERE.
WHEN I TOOK A WALK, TRYING TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING TO DO...
I STARTED FEELING A LITTLE SCARED MYSELF.
EVERYONE ELSE JUST THINKS THEY'RE STRESSED OUT FROM STUDYING TOO MUCH, BUT I... I DON'T KNOW.

SO LET ME SEE IF I HAVE THIS STRAIGHT, SUMIRE-SAN.
YOU THINK THAT YOUR FRIENDS' STRANGE BEHAVIOR IS ALL THE FAULT OF SOME UNSEEN MONSTER, SOME "VIRUS"?
SNICKER
BUT...!
BUT I SEE THEM!!
IT'S THE TRUTH!
FWAP
SEE WHAT?
DARK... SHADOWY THINGS. THEY'RE ALWAYS MISTY AND VAGUE, THOUGH...
I... UM... DON'T REALLY SEE THEM CLEARLY...
FWIP
REALLY? EXCELLENT!
HUH?
IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'VE GOT, THEN.
YOU FOUND THAT FLYER, RIGHT?
?
?
FWIP
"THE POWER TO SEE THAT WHICH IS UNSEEABLE." THAT'S CALLED "VISION." FOR PEOPLE WITHOUT IT, THAT FLYER IS JUST A RANDOM AD FOR A CLOTHING SHOP.
SO...
THE FACT THAT YOU SAW "VIRUS EXTERMINATION" ON THE FLYER MEANS THAT YOU HAVE "VISION."
AND IF YOU "SAW," WELL....

THIS COULD BE INTERESTING.
.....
UM... LUCIA-SAN...
I'M REALLY GLAD YOU DECIDED TO ACCEPT THE JOB AND ALL...
BUT HOW COME I HAVE TO SNEAK INTO THE SCHOOL AT NIGHT WITH YOU?!
HEY, THIS ISN'T MY SCHOOL. I NEED A GUIDE.
BUT YOU HAVE "VISION" TOO. YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE THE MONSTER, RIGHT?
AND THE GIRLS WHO DON'T STAY IN THE DORM... WHAT ABOUT THEM?
SHUDDER わわわわっ
UNFORTUNATELY...
RIGHT NOW, I CAN'T "SEE" MUCH OF ANYTHING.
WHAT?! HOW CAN YOU EXTERMINATE SOMETHING YOU CAN'T SEE?!
I SAID "RIGHT NOW," REMEMBER?
ANYWAY...
DO YOU KNOW WHERE THIS THING TENDS TO APPEAR?

HUH? UM...
WELL...
THAT'S THE WEIRD PART.
IT DOESN'T HAVE ANY PARTICULAR PLACE WHERE IT ALWAYS SHOWS UP.
I JUST SUDDENLY GET THIS COLD AND CREEPY FEELING, AND THEN I "SEE" IT.
IT'S REALLY QUICK TOO. IT'S LIKE SOMETHING BLACK ZIPS ACROSS MY VISION FOR JUST A SECOND, AND THEN IT'S GONE.
REALLY...
AH WELL. THIS IS A SCHOOL, AFTER ALL. ALL KINDS OF POWERFUL EMOTIONS CAN EASILY BUILD UP IN HERE. OUTSIDE STATIC LIKE THAT IS PROBABLY JAMMING YOUR "VISION."
SIGH
LET'S JUST WALK AROUND AND SEE WHAT WE FIND, THEN.
"JUST WALK AROUND"?
AH!
!!
LUCIA-SAN! IT... IT FEELS LIKE SOMETHING JUST "APPEARED."
REALLY? WOW. NICE TIMING.
HOW CAN YOU BE SO CALM AT A TIME LIKE THIS?!
WHICH DIREC-TION?
LEFT... NO, RIGHT... NO, WHERE...?!
I... I CAN'T TELL! IT'S ALL OVER THE PLACE!!
HEF?
HEF?
SHVR
SHVR

SIGH
WELL...
I GUESS I'LL TAKE A "LOOK" MYSELF, THEN.
WHAT...?
-HF-
THE "VISION" IN MY LEFT EYE IS SEVERAL THOUSAND TIMES STRONGER THAN BOTH YOUR EYES PUT TOGETHER. UNFORTUNATELY, THAT MEANS I "SEE" ENTIRELY TOO MUCH.
I USUALLY KEEP IT SEALED WITH THIS EYE-PATCH SO I CAN LEAD SOMETHING OF A NORMAL LIFE...
WITHOUT GOING NUTS.
IT'S PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY EXHAUS-TING...
SO I TRY TO AVOID USING IT...
UNLESS I REALLY, REALLY HAVE TO.
WOW...
.....
HER LEFT EYE IS SO...
SO DEEP...
!

?
LUCIA-SA--
FOLLOW ME, SUMIRE!
ACK!!
YANK
I FOUND IT!!
!
DASH
TMP
HFF
LUCIA-SAN...!
LU--
ASH

BAM
HFF
THIS WAY LEADS TO THE QUAD!
WE JUST SEARCHED THERE, REMEMBER?
TMP
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
TMP
TMP
HFF
HFF
SLUMP
TINK
SO FEEL FREE TO COME OUT...
THIS YARD IS COMPLETELY CLOSED IN. NOBODY WILL SEE IF WE HAVE TO GET A LITTLE... ROUGH.
I... HFF... NEVER WOULD'VE GUESSED.
IS THIS... HFF... WHERE IT'S BEEN... HFF... HIDING?
HFF
HFF
SHP

OUT OF HER BODY.
KCHK
HUH...
NH...
SLUMP
WELL DAMN.
FOUND ME ALREADY?
WHMP
C'MON. CAN'T WE TAKE OUR TIME WITH THIS? I WANNA HAVE A LITTLE MORE FUN.
SNEER

GOD...
AND WHY DID YOU HAVE TO GO AND PULL OUT ANTI-DEMON BULLETS? THAT'S NOT VERY NICE OF YOU, BABE.
OH, DON'T WORRY.
IT WON'T HURT A BIT. I'LL MAKE SURE TO KILL YOU GENTLY. ♥
CHK
REALLY? HOW SWEET! ♥
BUT...
WSH

!!
I MEAN, THIS GIRL'S BODY IS WAY TOO SWEET AND CONVENIENT TO GIVE UP.
I'M NOT IN THE MOOD FOR THAT JUST YET.
GRAB
?!
MPH...!!
STAGGER
SHRG
SKSHH
KEWP
THOUGHT SO! JUST LIKE BRIGHT LIGHT BLINDS US DEMONS, DEEP DARKNESS BLINDS YOU!
THAT LEFT EYE OF YOURS IS TOO SHARP, BABE.
SURE, IT MAKES A GREAT WEAPON, BUT IT'S A WEAK POINT TOO.
IT'S, OH WHAT DO YOU CALL IT, A "DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD"?
SNICKER

PLUS SHE'S SUPER EASY TO POSSESS. VESSELS AS PERFECT AS HER DON'T COME AROUND THAT OFTEN.
HMPH
WRONG!
THE BASE POWER IS ALL MINE, BABE. THE GIRL IS JUST A BOOSTER.
IS THAT ALL THANKS TO THE POWER OF YOUR HOSTESS?
YOU KNOW, FOR A SMALL FRY, YOU'RE ACTUALLY INTELLIGENT.
KCHK
SKSHH
YOU SURE IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO TELL ME SOMETHING SO IMPORTANT?
GHK
OH REALLY.
?!
BLAM
?
HAHAKOFF...
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE A DEMO—
SHE
WHAT THE HELL?! YOU JUST SHOT YOUR OWN COMPANION?

HUH?
SHLUK
BUT SHE IS NOW.
THAT I'M A DEMON? NOPE.
AN "ANTIVIRUS." ONCE I SHOT SUMIRE, HER POWERS MAGNIFIED IT. A LOT.
NOW SUMIRE HERSELF HAS MORE THAN ENOUGH POWER TO SQUASH A SMALL FRY LIKE YOU.
SHLP
!
!!
KWHMP
AGK...!
PIECES OF DEMONS I'VE KILLED. IT'S A KIND OF DRUG, ONE THAT ONLY TARGETS VIRUSES.
YOU SEE, THE BULLET I SHOT HER WITH CONTAINED SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL...
AAAAAAAAAAAH...!
SHE'S GOTTA BE A DEMON. SHE'S JUST GOTTA!
HEE HEE
SO, NOW THAT YOU'RE DYING, WHAT SAY I TAKE YOUR REMAINS AND USE THEM FOR ANOTHER ANTIVIRUS? YOU DON'T MIND, DO YOU? OF COURSE NOT.
THAT B/TCH...!!
SHFS

SO THEN...
EVERY-THING WAS MY FAULT, THEN.
HOW SO?
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT. YOU'RE JUST AN INCREDIBLY POWERFUL SPIRIT MEDIUM.
YOU COULDN'T RESIST IT.
BUT... I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK...
THAT MAYBE I CALLED THAT DEMON TO ME.
I... I'VE NEVER BEEN GOOD AT STANDING UP FOR MYSELF. I ALWAYS END UP GOING ALONG WITH THE CROWD.
SUMIRE ISN'T FUN TO HANG OUT WITH. YOU KNOW?
YEAH SHE'S, LIKE, TOO MUCH OF A GOODIE-TWO-SHOES.
I'VE ALWAYS HATED THAT ABOUT MYSELF.
I DON'T KNOW WHEN, BUT I STARTED THINKING THAT MY SELF-HATRED WAS EVERY-BODY ELSE'S FAULT.
I MIGHT HAVE UN-KNOWINGLY CALLED THE DEMON TO PROTECT MYSELF.
EVERYBODY WENT THROUGH THAT TERROR JUST BECAUSE I WAS WEAK...!!
SIGH
DON'T BE STUPID.
ALL HUMANS ARE WEAK. FRETTING ABOUT IT IS A POINTLESS WASTE OF ENERGY.
I MEAN, THOSE WHO CAN'T REALIZE AND ACCEPT THEIR OWN WEAKNESSES ARE JUST PLAIN IDIOTS...
OR DEMONS.
FZT
BUT NEVER MIND THAT...

SMILE
FAP
NOW, HERE'S YOUR BILL.
IT COMES TO ABOUT THIS MUCH. MIND PAYING ME NOW?
HUH...?
NO. "HUH" IS THE WRONG ANSWER.
UMM...
K-K'LAK
NOK
PLEASE... COME IN.
UM... EXCUSE ME...
I FOUND THIS FLYER...
KREEE
TOK
TELL US THE DETAILS.

POSTSCRIPT

HELLO EVERYONE, I'M ATSUSHI SUZUMI. NICE TO MEET YOU, AND THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR PICKING UP "V.V.V." VOLUME 1!

THIS IS MY FIRST REAL SERIALIZED MANGA, SO IT TOOK ABOUT HALF A YEAR OF TRIAL, ERROR AND OTHER VARIOUS ANTICS, BUT I MANAGED TO GET IT ALL TOGETHER INTO THE COLLECTED VOLUME YOU NOW HOLD IN YOUR HANDS. TO ALL THE MANY, MANY PEOPLE WHO HELPED ME OUT, THANK YOU!!

EVERYTHING STARTED WHEN I DECIDED TO SUBMIT A ONE-SHOT STORY TO A CONTEST RUN BY THE ANTHOLOGY "DENGEKI GAO." THE CONTEST'S THEME WAS "GOTHIC LOLITA." I'D NEVER REALLY DONE ANYTHING WITH GOTH-LOLI BEFORE, SO HONESTLY, I WASN'T REALLY SURE IF I COULD COME UP WITH A GOOD STORY OR NOT. BUT IT TURNS OUT THAT I SOMEHOW MANAGED TO MAKE SOME CHARACTERS I REALLY LIKED, WHICH SURPRISED ME NO SMALL BIT. WELL... I DID END UP STRAYING A GOOD BIT AWAY FROM TRUE GOTH-LOLI STYLE IN THE MEANTIME, THOUGH. AH WELL.

I HAVE TO ADMIT, THERE ARE STILL A LOT OF THINGS IN HERE THAT I'M NOT YET GOOD ENOUGH TO PULL OFF RIGHT, BUT I PLAN ON USING THIS AS INSPIRATION AND MOTIVATION TO WORK EVEN HARDER, AND RAISE MY SKILL LEVEL TO THAT OF A SOLID, RESPECTABLE MANGA ARTIST AS FAST AS I CAN.

THANK YOU EVERYONE
FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT!

2005.12 鈴見敦

ATSUSHI SUZUMI

★STAFF★ Chisa Mori / Ichihara / Tokito Wagawa / Sachi Kurafuji
...Thanks!!!

JAPANESE HONORIFICS GUIDE

To ensure that all character relationships appear as they were originally intended, all character names have been kept in their original Japanese name order with family name first and given name second. For copyright reasons, creator names appear in standard English name order.

In addition to preserving the original Japanese name order, Seven Seas is committed to ensuring that honorifics—polite speech that indicates a person's status or relationship towards another individual—are retained within this book. Politeness is an integral facet of Japanese culture and we believe that maintaining honorifics in our translations helps bring out the same character nuances as seen in the original work.

The following are some of the more common honorifics you may come across while reading this and other books:

-san – The most common of all honorifics, it is an all-purpose suffix that can be used in any situation where politeness is expected. Generally seen as the equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., Mrs., etc.

-sama – This suffix is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect upon an individual.

-dono – Stemming from the word "tono," meaning "lord," "-dono" signifies an even higher level than "-sama," and confers the utmost respect.

-kun – This suffix is commonly used at the end of boys' names to express either familiarity or endearment. It can also be used when addressing someone younger than oneself or of a lower status.

-chan – Another common honorific. This suffix is mainly used to express endearment towards girls, but can also be used when referring to little boys or even pets. Couples are also known to use the term amongst each other to convey a sense of cuteness and intimacy.

Sempai – This title is used towards one's senior or "superior" in a particular group or organization. "Sempai" is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to upperclassmen as "sempai," though it is also commonly said by employees when addressing fellow employees who hold seniority in the workplace.

Kouhai – This is the exact opposite of "sempai," and is used to refer to underclassmen in school, junior employees at the workplace, etc.

Sensei – Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

Oniisan – This title literally means "big brother." First and foremost, it is used by younger siblings towards older male siblings. It can be used by itself or attached to a person's name as a suffix (niisan). It is often used by a younger person toward an older person unrelated by blood, but as a sign of respect. Other forms include the informal "oniichan" and the more respectful "oniisama."

Oneesan – This title is the opposite of "oniisan" and means "big sister." Other forms include the informal "oneechan" and the more respectful "oneesama."

TRANSLATION NOTES

26.4
Six hundred and sixty-six thousand yen averages out to be a little over $6,000, depending on the exchange rate.

98.4
Sumire-kun
Normally the -kun suffix is only used for boys, but sometimes it can be used by superiors for their female subordinates in a work-type setting. It implies a proper, business-like connection.

140.1
A "kekkai" is a magical barrier or ward.

163.4
Tsukuyo's name means "moon night." (tsuku = moon / yo = night)
Youji's name means "sun ruler." (you = sun / ji = to govern)

Venus versus Virus

★ヴィーナス ヴァーサス ヴァイアラス★

VOLUME 1

story & art by Atsushi Suzumi

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Venus Versus Virus

ヴィーナス ヴァーサス ヴァイアラス

OMAKE